

# COMMUNIQUE'

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



SUMMER/FALL 2001



# From the Director In the face of adversity



It has been an unsettling year for CDF. The list of adversities and challenges placed in the Department's path have severely tested us. From the emotional to the fiscal, from program operations to long-term Department plans – the CDF family's resolve has been shaken by the new millennium.

The tragedies that took place in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania have affected each and every American. But the deaths of so many firefighters, law enforcement, and emergency workers in New York has hit our CDF emergency response personnel on another level. It has been said that - - while we run away from a burning building, they run toward it. This truth became clear to all of us the morning of September 11. CDF urban search and rescue team members contributed to the effort in New York - and here at home our uniformed CDFers live it on a daily basis.

Just prior to the terrorist attacks, CDF lost two members of its family when Airtanker Pilots Lars Stratte and Larry Groff were killed in a mid-air collision over the Bus Fire in Mendocino County on August 27. Family and friends have said over and over again that both pilots loved what they did – even with the inherent danger in their chosen profession. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of Larry and Lars. My admiration also goes to our Chaplain Corps and the staff in the Units, who responded in numbers to

comfort families and fellow colleagues, stepped up to the difficult tasks of investigation, and helped with the arrangements for the very moving, full-honor memorial services.

These tragedies came on the heels of a fire season that has challenged us with one major conflagration after another. Thanks to early predictions and reinforcements from the Governor, we were better prepared for the record low fuel moistures of early spring in the north. But still, thousands of firefighters from CDF, and federal and local government agencies, have battled fires that started in May with the Devil Fire threatening the community of Susanville, and the Jones Fire on the Klamath National Forest. It continued with the Martis Fire, then the Ponderosa Fire, the Leonard Fire, the Creek Fire, the Oregon Fire, the Star, Poe and Darby fires. CDF now faces what often are our most challenging fire season months as we look for the Santa Ana's to blow in Southern California, and the potential for lightning along the Sierra.

Administrative and management issues have bedeviled us more than usual too. The global economy is slowing, and California is not immune. Incoming revenues are far below the past few years, and just when we thought we could rebuild programs, the state is now forced to contemplate budget cuts. Nothing is harder for our managers and executives than trying to decide where to cut when in reality we cannot afford cuts anywhere. We don't know yet what the next budget will look like, but CDF will need to take some share. A new law requiring departments to "fill it or lose it" makes the handling of vacant positions now more challenging, since we have such a dynamic hiring pattern, especially compared to other departments. Miraculously, Management Services succeeded in salvaging many positions at the last moment, but these herculean efforts only added to their already full workload.

We also dealt with media attention concerning the acquisition of a specialized airplane that will allow CDF to better map fires, floods, pipeline leaks, and even the effects of Sudden Oak Death Syndrome more quickly and efficiently than ever before. In spite of what detractors may imply, we are confident this is the right plane to carry the specialized line scan infra-red imaging equipment that will give our incident command teams real-time, mapped information to deploy resources strategically and save property. The aircraft can fly higher,

See **DIRECTOR**, page 3

## **DIRECTOR:** *from page 2*

faster and in inclement weather, and will be able to map incidents located in both Southern and Northern California twice in a single day.

The Department's adversity has not been exclusive to our fire and emergency response programs and personnel. Our Resource Management Program has been hit with its own funding issues. Proceeds from timber harvesting sales on the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF), the largest of CDF's eight forests, have long supported many CDF resource management programs through the Forest Resource Improvement Fund (FRIF). Due to a court injunction blocking harvesting on JDSF, combined with declining timber prices, proceeds for the current fiscal year, and possibly three to four fiscal years down the road, will not meet anticipated levels. At this time there appears to be no way to compensate for the loss of this revenue to the FRIF, and cutbacks may be necessary in forest improvement grants to landowners, urban forestry, vegetation management and other programs.

With all of this, and a host of other challenges, the resilience of CDF personnel has amazed me. You have all continued to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of this state. Despite all of the adversity, your commitment and dedication to our mission remains unwavering. Repeatedly, you have also exemplified the spirit of unity among all emergency responders. From assisting and attending memorial services, to outward signs of patriotism, to fund raising efforts for victim's families, to the black bands on your shields: I have never been so honored and proud to be a part of an organization.

As I contemplate the challenges facing the Department and the breadth of changes that will affect all of us as members of the CDF family, I am confident that every one of you is up to the task, and will continue to stand together to get the job done.

*Andrea E. Tuttle*

## **The loss of our own**

When two CDF S-2A airtankers collided while working a fire in Mendocino County on August 27, 2001 CDF lost two members of its family, and two families lost their husbands, fathers, brothers, and friends. From family and fellow tanker pilots, it is clear that Larry Groff of Windsor, California, and Lars Stratte of Redding, California, died doing a job they loved, but that doesn't make the loss any easier.

Larry, a Navy pilot for 20 years, began flying CDF S-2's in 1997. He flew out of the Sonoma Air Attack Base in Santa Rosa. Lars was an air attack pilot for the US Forest Service before he began flying S-2's in 1999. He flew out of the Chico Air Attack Base.

Both pilots were employees of San Joaquin Helicopters, Inc. the contractor that has provided CDF with airtanker pilots, and airtanker and helicopter maintenance since January 1996.

Memorial services for both pilots were testaments to the closeness of members of the emergency services family - a sea of dress uniforms amidst family and friends.

Services for Larry Groff began as a simple pine casket, draped by an American flag in the back of a vintage fire engine led a procession of 150 emergency vehicles to the Charles M. Schultz Airport in Sonoma County. There, mourners heard friends and family talk about a "humble, unassuming" man who loved to fly. CDF Pilot Jimmy Barnes told the crowd that "Larry thought of himself as a simple country boy.... but he was so much more than that."

Larry is survived by his wife, Christine; daughters Kim, Kara, Kristen, and Susie; and son Mick. Over 2000 attended Lars Stratte's memorial service at Bethel Church in Redding. His son, Ian, spoke about the job his dad helped him get refueling tankers this fire season at the Redding Municipal Airport. He said that his dad died doing something he loved, and that "he was the kind of man that I want to be in so many ways." Lars is survived by his wife, Terri Ann; sons Ian and Tryg; brothers Tryg, Joel Stratte-McClure; sisters Leslie Curfman and Scott Peters; and mother Helen.

In memory of the two fallen pilots, CDF Director Tuttle retired their respective airtanker numbers 87 and 92.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office arrested two men in connection with the cause of the fire that Lars and Larry died battling. The Bus Fire was contained at less than 250 acres.

*See **LOSS**, page 4*

## **LOSS:** from page 3

"I watched two of the air tankers yesterday, just before the mid-air collision, as they circled the Ukiah airport. I remember thinking how majestic they looked and felt glad they were there. Later, after the tragic sequence of events led to the loss of Pilots Groff and Stratte, I was sorrowed at the loss of such dedicated men. Yet, as I reflected, I hope that when God calls me, I am doing that which I love to do, as I know they were. I share this thought with you. Theirs was a greater cause, the service of their fellow man. These pilots have shed their earthly wings, and donned the golden wings given only by God. They are no longer restricted to the bonds of earthly flight, their freedom is complete. They soar the heights of heaven and earth without restriction. Death is for us, the living, no longer for them, because they are reborn in His glory. Yet, they are not gone from us. From the ground, when you see the air tankers skimming overhead, know that it is them, watching over you. Fellow pilots, know that they are there with you, in the bond of friendship and dedicated resolve to fight the good fight that you carry on, in all ways, always with you in spirit. They are there with you, making sure the tanks are topped off. They are going through the pre-flight checks with you. They are there helping you steady the wheel during those particularly hard runs. They will always be there for you.

We share and are saddened by your loss. We pray for your rapid recovery and thank you for carrying on, despite your heart felt losses.

May the Heavenly Father bless you in this time of sorrow."

**Sgt. Kevin Cotroneo & Family**  
**CHP (Ukiah & Santa Rosa)**

"It is with deepest sorrow that we learn of the death of a member of your family. We offer our sincerest regret for the loss and offer heartfelt sympathy to the family of the fallen heroes. This letter is written to let each of you know that we are praying for your department and the families of the lost. If there is anything this agency can do, please feel free to call upon us at any time."

**With Deepest Sympathy**  
**C. Reid Vaughan**  
**Fire Marshal**  
**County District Chaplain**  
**Cuba Fire & Rescue**  
**Cuba, Alabama**

"Your friends and colleagues in the National Park Service extend our condolences to you and your staffs as you all cope with the deaths of airtanker pilots Larry Groff and Lars Stratte. This tragic accident reminds us of how vulnerable our pilots are in their critical work of protecting people and property from the dangers of wildfires. Although we cannot feel the same grief that their friends and family have, we will share a sense of loss over the death of these two colleagues. We send our deepest sympathy and wish for you strength to deal with the loss.

Please let us know if we can do anything to help you during this difficult time."

**Sincerely,**  
**John J. Reynolds**  
**Regional Director,**  
**Pacific West Region**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

"On behalf of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of air tanker pilots Larry Groff and Lars Stratte. Without a doubt, we all recognize the hazards associated with our profession; however, your loss exceeds the bounds of that understanding and we can only imagine the impact on you and CDF.

We would very much appreciate your extending our deepest sympathy to the Groff and Stratte families."

**Sincerely,**  
**Rick Martinez**  
**Fire Chief**  
**Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District**

# Employee Support Services Program

## Caring for the emotional well being of the CDF Family

The nature of our mission often places CDF personnel in situations that are extremely stressful and frequently dangerous. Traumatic situations, such as the recent deaths of two of our airtanker pilots, a burn over on an incident, the break-up of a marriage, the death of a child, and the terrorist attacks on this country, can create emotional and spiritual issues for even the most seasoned emergency responder. CDF takes care of its family through the Employee Support Services Program (ESS).

Jay Donnelly heads up this widespread program as Chief of the Employee Support Services Program. There are four components to ESS, each geared to provide assistance to personnel and their families in complete confidentiality. Those components are the CDF Chaplaincy Program, the CDF Critical Incident Stress Management Program, the CDF Substance Abuse Assistance Program, and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

As a long-time, fully licensed minister, Jay has been involved in chaplaincy support for the Department since 1987. "At that time, because I was a minister, I provided support whenever it was requested by a unit chief," said Jay. "The role of, and need for, qualified chaplains has grown extensively since then."

Today, CDF Chaplains fulfill many functions. They are there when a family member is notified of the death or injury of a loved one. They act as family liaisons with hospitals and funeral homes. They work with family clergy to arrange for services, as well as perform funerals and memorials. They arrange transportation for employees and family

dealing with the death or injury of a loved one. They respond to the scenes of major critical incidents. They perform last rites. They act as initial contacts for employees struggling with substance or alcohol abuse, and they counsel and refer employees overwhelmed by personal issues. For example, "Since the attack on the World Trade Center we have had over 300 contacts from CDF staff," said Jay. "People just need to talk to someone about this tragedy."

CDF is a department of nearly 5,000, many of whom are highly trained emergency responders. The rigors of the job, and the stress of everyday life can take a toll, affecting job performance and families. "The Department's chaplains are available 24-7 to support ALL members of the CDF family," said Jay. He added that "We do not take the place of a family minister or pastor, nor do we promote the doctrines of any church or denomination without a specific request by the person involved. We are here to provide support."

There are currently more than 30 CDF Unit Chaplains located throughout the state. "Our goal is for every CDF Unit to have a chaplain," said Jay. "We only have a few more units to go to make that a reality, and most units have found that they need two or three chaplains to ensure one is always available."

The Unit Chaplains consist of a wide variety of CDF personnel including fire captains, battalion chiefs, fire apparatus engineers, foresters and office technicians. They all volunteer their time, outside of their jobs, in support of the program. A person's specific

religion is not a criteria for involvement in the Chaplaincy Program. CDF Chaplains currently represent a number of faiths, and in fact, the department encourages personnel of all faiths and sects to look into becoming part of this program. What is important is a person's involvement, standing and integrity in their faith. Jay will discuss that with all potential volunteers, along with a number of other issues including life standards, and daily conduct.

All volunteers participate in a mandatory 40-hour Basic Chaplaincy course. The course provides them the status of associate chaplain or "lay minister," not a licensed minister. "We teach the basic standards of training provided by the Federation of Fire Chaplains Institute," said Jay. "These are the standards used by fire department chaplains throughout the country." There is a 40-hour advanced course available for those who want to expand their support role. And, many become fully licensed ministers through their own churches and faiths. "Right now, we are about 50/50 licensed ministers and lay ministers within CDF," said Jay.

All CDF Chaplains wear a chaplain insignia pin, designed similar to those worn by military chaplains. These pins identify them as CDF Chaplains, and at the discretion of each chaplain, may display a religious symbol pertinent to their faith, such as a cross, Star of David, or crescent.

While Jay oversees statewide activities, the Unit Chaplains are responsible for the needs of their

See **WELL BEING**, page 6



## **WELL BEING:** *from page 5*

unit personnel. They contact and create resource lists of local clergy from a wide variety of faiths and sects, and are able to arrange for assistance from these clergy, or refer personnel to these clergy, whenever needed. In some cases, local clergy will train as CDF Chaplains and are then available to support or fill in for the Unit Chaplains.

When Lars Stratte and Larry Groff were killed in the airtanker collision, Jay immediately organized a large group of CDF Chaplains and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team members. Behind the scenes, CDF Chaplains Harry Martin of the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, and John Bruno of the Shasta-Trinity Unit were immediately available to the Groff and Stratte

families to provide grief counseling and assist in arranging for and participating in funeral services. CDF Chaplain Gary Kavanagh of the Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NYP) Unit provided support for all the staff of Mendocino unit, because he was the Unit Chaplain for Mendocino prior to his promotion to NYP. CDF Chaplain Tim Ward, from the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, focused on support specifically for the air attack personnel. And, chaplains and CISM personnel were on hand to counsel the staff and pilots at five of CDF's air attack bases. In fact, the support provided to those affected by this tragedy continues; at this writing, the incident order number is still open.

"While people may feel intimidated by the term 'chaplain' due to

its religious connotation, myself and the CDF Chaplains statewide are not here to preach to anyone," said Jay. "I want every single CDFer to know that we are available to help no matter what the issue. After all, there are four components to the Employee Support Services program, and anyone can make direct contact to a unit representative from any one of the four components, or we can make sure you get the appropriate, and confidential assistance that is right for you."

The contact numbers for all CDF Chaplains, or for any of the four ESS components, are available through the unit ECC's and will be available on the CDF Intranet very soon. You can always contact Jay at 209-274-5502.

# Call to duty in New York City

*by Steve Brooker, fire captain, Riverside Unit*

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) answered the call to duty in the wake of our nation's recent tragedy in New York City.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Riverside, California Task Force Six was activated to the disaster on Tuesday September 11, 2001 approximately four hours after the collapse of the World Trade Center towers.

One of 28 teams nationwide, this urban search and rescue (USAR) group is a multi-agency team consisting of 27 CDF Riverside employees as well as firefighters from the Riverside, Hemet, Corona, Palm Springs, Norco, and Murrieta fire departments. Also included are civilian doctors, structural engineers, emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, and canine specialists.

The team consists of three squads of 62 persons each. Each squad is

evenly distributed with specialists in heavy rescue, search, rigging, hazardous materials, canine, communications, and EMS to provide expertise in all areas of urban search and rescue. FEMA provides all equipment and funds training for personnel. In the event of a disaster, FEMA activates the needed teams based on location and on a rotational basis. Prior to September 11, the team had only been activated one time at the state level to the Northridge earthquake in 1993.

Shortly into the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>, while the nation was glued to the television watching these horrific events unfold, CDF Battalion Chief Ignacio Otero received the word that the team had been put on official alert status from FEMA. This put the wheels into motion.

Fire Captain Jerry Rodman began calling personnel to compile availability. "No, we haven't been officially activated yet," was the word on

the end of the line. "FEMA says up to 36 hours. Just stand by the phone and I'll call you back." Thirty minutes later the phone rings "We've been activated! Get your gear and meet at the rendezvous point!"

Two hours later nine CDFers are part of the 62-person squad at Riverside City Station #3 preparing to head to the Big Apple. This group included Fire Captains Steve Beach, Jerry Rodman, Rich Egerman, Clarence Homer, and myself; Fire Apparatus Engineers Jorge Juarez, Chuck Tasker, and Tim Buckley; and Firefighter II Jerry Salmeron.

The entire squad was shortly in full swing packing the approximately 60,000 pounds of gear required for the trip. Each box had to be packed, inventoried, weighed, and put on eight-foot cargo pallets which would eventually be loaded on our military charter. The mobilization plan

*See DUTY, page 7*

## ***DUTY***

from  
page 6



*Above left is the entire 62 member team including K-9s. Above the CDF team members from L to R standing: Fire Captain Steve Brooker, Fire Captain Clarence Homer, Fire Captain Steve Beach, Fire Captain Rich Egerman, Fire Captain Chuck Tasker, and Fire Apparatus Engineer (Paramedic) Tim Buckley. L To R kneeling: Fire Apparatus Engineer George Juarez and Firefighter Jerry Salmeron. This photo was taken at March Air Reserve Base shortly after the teams return from New York on September 21.*



*At ground zero, Firefighter/Paramedic Darrell Cleveland, from the city of Corona, stands watch as a fellow team member climbs into the debris to check for voices. There had been reports of knocking noises, unfortunately nothing was heard or found.*

*Photos by team member Captain Dave Lesh of the Riverside City Fire Department.*

includes the use of CDF crews to assist in this laborious task. Help arrived in the form of Oak Glen Conservation Camp crews #2, #4, and #6, supervised by Battalion Chief John Winder. The crews made this task look easy and shaved hours off of the deployment time.

At 1700 hours two semi-trucks of equipment and two buses of excited workers made the first of many police escorted trips that would occur during this journey. Sirens drowned the afternoon hustle and bustle as family and strangers cheered, and media captured the moment. The procession made its way from downtown Riverside to March Air Reserve Base.

Two C-141 cargo planes were awaiting our arrival. We were to meet with the LA City Task Force

and travel together to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. Both aircraft left the ground just before 11 p.m. after undergoing the usual delays and the rigorous manifesting required by the Air Force. A couple-hours rest came easy on the noisy, but otherwise uneventful five hour flight.

The plane came to rest at McGuire at 6:30 a.m. A warm breakfast greeted us and then we began the all too familiar hurry up and wait. It seems that communications and management at the incident were slow. It was passed along to us that a large number of chief officers and rescue specialists were lost in the collapse significantly compounding the scope of this disaster. There were now four teams staging at McGuire including Sacra-

mento, Missouri, LA City, and Riverside.

The teams had to wait for reconnaissance from the federal incident support team which manages the USAR teams. This was completed at 3:30 in the afternoon, at which time all four teams were ordered to the Javits Convention Center in New York City. All four teams configured into a massive rolling stock of 11 semi-trucks, eight buses, several support vehicles, and an equal number of New Jersey state troopers. Our second code three convoy was underway headed for New York and ground zero.

Two hours later the group was in New York. There she was! Lady Liberty in all of her glory greeting

See ***DUTY***, page 8



## **DUTY:** from page 7

the new arrivals as we crossed into New York and headed towards Manhattan. Directly behind the Lady though, rose a broad, ominous column of black smoke confirming that the prior days unbelievable events were indeed true. Into Brooklyn and across the Manhattan Bridge; down 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, underneath the Empire State Building and finally to our destination - we arrived at 6:30p.m.

After procuring our spot in the Jarvits Center, we began the task of unloading all of the equipment - without the help of forklifts. All teams did their best given the large number of trucks clogging the not-so-large truck dock. This task lasted early into the morning. "OK folks, time to get some sleep. We have an assignment in the morning."

Sleep was in scarce supply given the reports of survivors being pulled from the rubble and rumors of cell phone calls from trapped victims. This accompanied by the bright lights and all-night commotion of moving cargo, made for tired rescuers at daybreak.

After our basic gear was loaded onto military 2 1/2 ton trucks, we again boarded the buses towards the site. Traffic was horrendous. Two hours later found us still sitting on the ramp at the Jarvis Center. Finally, the convoy moved amidst the throngs of spectators lining the streets. Closer and closer, our hopes were rising when...the bus breaks down! Oh no! All this way from California to have this happen! Quickly the word spreads through the crowd as hundreds of civilians start running towards the bus to one way or another help resolve this predicament.

A quick shove from a 2 1/2 ton truck removes the behemoth bus from the road, and the crew clambers onto the military trucks to finish the journey. We were again on



***The photos speak for themselves. The devastation is incomprehensible.***

***President Bush visited the site to lend moral support all the rescuers. Photos by team member Captain Dave Lesh of the Riverside City Fire Department.***



the move as water bottles begin whizzing into the back of the trucks - courtesy of well-intentioned citizens. Some score direct hits as we quickly retrieved our rescue helmets and posted lookouts for the rest of the ride.

Finally, 26 hours after activation the team reached ground zero. None of us could believe the devastation. All of lower Manhattan was covered in dust and papers. We drove through the filthy imitation snow-storm noticing the shattered windows for blocks surrounding the World Trade Center.

The extent of the disaster was unimaginable. One of the greatest architectural wonders in the world lay in a mountain of twisted metal and debris several stories high. The skeletons of the surrounding buildings stood as silent survivors, badly tattered and burned.

After procuring a building for our forward base (the American Stock



Exchange and a fitness club), the trucks were unloaded and 62 eager rescuers went to work. While the task force leader was being briefed on our assignment, the team wasted no time assisting in the massive bucket brigades that were removing debris from the pile. Thousands of volunteers worked feverishly as an endless supply of buckets made their way up and down the remains. The teamwork was impressive. Soon the task force leader was back and the team made its way to the top of the pile burrowing into the small voids that were the remains of World Trade Center Tower Two. Our search dogs were quickly snatched by the New York Fire Department and brought to the top of the pile. The dogs are trained to detect live human scent and they did indeed alert several times although no survivors were recovered.

The team was divided into day and night shifts providing 24-hour

***See DUTY, page 9***



## **DUTY:** from page 8

work. The 12-hour shifts often turned into 16 as traffic plagued the event from start to finish. Footing was treacherous and the physical and mental strain took its toll on the group.

The later part of the week found the group working in the subterranean levels of the structure. Huge steel beams hung precariously amid the curtains of tangled rebar and concrete that threatened rescuers. This area became known as “the pit” and was a challenge to rescuers who had to access by a ladder or belly-crawling through collapsed stairwells. FAE Tasker was the first to recon the area and the group lis-

tened intently as he described the devastation many floors below ground.

Later in the first week a US Forest Service management team was brought in to manage the Javits Center. The shower units were welcome as proper hygiene was a very serious concern and was lacking. We were also not unappreciative of the one hot meal a day provided by a US Forest Service kitchen from Tennessee.

And so it went until we reached the end of our 10-day commitment. We made our way back from our last shift entertained by Jack, the outrageous bus driver, as the rains were settling into New York City. We packed our supplies and briefed the

incoming teams and wished them well. The now silent bus lumbered in the darkness back towards McGuire AFB against the magnificent New York skyline. Again another fitful night with little sleep at Fort Dix before departing toward home.

As the 757 touched down at March ARB we realized our journey was complete. Many broke ranks and ran toward the welcome arms of family and friends. Flags waved, people cheered and the media rolled. Although no survivors were found, there was still a tremendous amount of pride among all of us who participated in this event.

## Honoring fallen comrades

# California's Day of Remembrance



***CDF Engine 2389 from the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit and Engine 1167 from the Mendocino Unit were part of a long procession of emergency equipment from all over California.***

On October 9, 2001, thousands of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and other emergency response personnel marched from West Sacramento to the State Capitol in honor and remembrance of those who died on September 11, 2001.

This “California’s Day of Remembrance” procession included fire engines, police and sheriff vehicles, dignitaries, and a sea of dark blue dress uniforms with shoulder patches belying the variety of agencies and departments that had traveled to Sacramento. The procession was cheered and saluted by thousands who lined the streets,

most holding American flags.

The procession arrived at the west steps of the State Capitol and became part of a crowd of roughly 6,000. A memorial service featuring Governor Davis, family members of September 11 victims, and a member of the New York Fire Department lasted for more than two hours. And as the firefighter’s Final Alarm was rung, there were smiles, tears and a lot of pride on the faces of all in attendance.

***Over 130 uniformed CDFers followed the CDF Honor Guard.***



***See REMEMBRANCE, page 10***

## **REMEMBRANCE:** from page 9



*CDFers of all ranks participated in the procession.*



*A large group of law enforcement officers led the procession over the Tower Bridge from West Sacramento.*



*The California fire service was well represented - from L.A. to San Francisco.*



*Nearly 6,000 packed the flag-draped west side of the State Capitol for the memorial service. At one point a breeze caused the largest of the American flags to wrap itself around a truck ladder. A firefighter quickly climbed up and unwrapped it - bringing applause from the crowd.*





# Medal of Valor for CDFer

Governor Davis presented CDF Battalion Chief Robert Paulus, along with two CHP officers, with the Medal of Valor on August 22 for their actions when a man went on a shooting spree in Nevada County earlier this year.

Once again a CDFer put aside the threat to his own life to try and save the lives of others. Battalion Chief Robert Paulus of the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, placed his own safety at risk last January when he entered a restaurant where a gunman had just shot two people.

At approximately 11:36 a.m. on January 10, 2001, Battalion Chief (BC) Robert Paulus was responding to a shots being fired call with three known victims at the Nevada County Department of Mental Health building in Nevada City, when he heard the CDF Emergency Command Center report a new incident of shots being fired at the Lyon's Restaurant in Grass Valley. Knowing that most other county law enforcement agencies were committed to the first incident, and as he was close to Lyon's, he responded to the incident. Chief Paulus arrived immediately after a CHP Unit. Together they were the first officers on the scene.

Chief Paulus and the CHP officers arrived approximately 30 seconds after the initial broadcast. They found people in panic still fleeing the restaurant and felt there was good reason to believe the shooter was still inside the building, and that he was likely to be the shooter from the Mental Health building incident. Concerned about the immediate threat to the lives of the patrons still inside the restaurant, and the likelihood of shooting victims needing emergency medical care, Chief Paulus armed himself with his shotgun and made the conscious decision to enter the building,



***CDF Battalion Chief Robert Paulus stands between Governor Gray Davis and CDF Director Andrea Tuttle after receiving his Medal of Valor. Below, Chief Paulus poses with his parents, Shirley and retired CDF Chief Robert Paulus.***

placing himself in immediate peril.

Upon entering the building, he saw several patrons hiding under tables. He, along with CHP Officers David Qualls and Troy Marks began a room by room search of the building looking for the suspect and victims. Upon entering the kitchen they discovered the body of the restaurant manager who Chief Paulus determined had succumbed to his gunshot wounds. While Officers Marks and Qualls finished the search of the building, Chief Paulus went to the rear of the building and requested the ambulance and fire-rescue units that were waiting in a safe location for the treatment and transport of a cook who had sustained serious gunshot wounds. After the victim was transported, Chief Paulus continued to assist local law enforcement in securing the scene and determining that the suspect was no longer on the premises.

Four people were killed and two others seriously injured in this shooting spree. The suspect was taken into custody later that evening.

The Medal of Valor ceremony took place at the California Highway



Patrol Academy in West Sacramento. There were 31 CHP officers honored along with Battalion Chief Robert Paulus. During the ceremony Governor Davis said, "We often use the term hero loosely. I am proud to be looking at 32 individuals who are true heroes."

**46 CDFers  
have been  
awarded the  
Medal of Valor  
since 1959**

# Fire Season Appreciation

"Gotta tell you guys - I was riding home from the mountains with my brother on Sunday. We traveled through Truckee, Weimar, etc. I counted right around 100, give or take a few, CDF vehicles traveling to or from the fires in that area. We were on the freeway right behind one of the engines. In the very back, sitting and facing each other, were two very young people, all geared up to go fight the fire. One was a young female and the other a young male. As we followed behind them, I actually got a little choked up, lump in the throat, and all of that. I just felt so very, very proud to be part of what they were doing. Even though my part is very small, considering the whole picture, it is nonetheless a part. I really swelled up with pride and it felt so good. As we passed them I gave them the "thumbs up" sign. My thanks to you for the opportunity to work in this department. I love it and I am, really, very, very, proud to be a part of CDF."

*Janet Baker, CDF Return-to-Work Coordinator*

## CDF 2001 Fire Season Top 10 - To Date

<u>FIRE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>STARTED</u>	<u>CONTAINED</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>STRUCTURES DESTROYED</u>
Viejas	San Diego	1/3	1/8	2,300 CDF/8,053 USFS	16
Devil	Lassen-Modoc	5/27	6/1	4,400	0
Jackson	Amador-El Dorado	6/13	6/13	2,240	15
Martis	Nevada-Yuba-Placer	6/17	7/1	5,600 CDF/8,900 USFS	5
Ponderosa	Nevada-Yuba-Placer	8/17	8/23	2,780	0
Creek	Madera-Mariposa-Merced	8/18	8/24	11,500	8
Leonard	Tuloumne-Calaveras	8/19	8/25	4,185	11
Oregon	Shasta-Trinity	8/28	8/31	1,680	33
Darby	Tuolumne-Calaveras	9/5	9/17	14,280	1
Poe	Butte	9/6	9/12	8,333	170

"Because we were in the way of the Jackson Fire, that started about three miles away, on June 13, I am writing to thank each and every man and woman who helped contain and put out the fire. We were able, with their work, to save our animals, most vehicles and all of the buildings.

When I saw it coming with the wind so bad, I didn't have much hope. It is amazing how, they can keep going and going. With one less crew member I think the results would have been terrible. It was also a comfort to see them on duty all night for so long. Lets not fail to mention the bombers and the helicopters. They sure see with the help of the spotter, what needs quick attention.

I wish I could personally thank each one. It seems I will have to rely on you to do that. Is there a newsletter type of communication? I understand they came from all over California and some from Nevada. I could go on and on about how wonderful they all are, but I will hope you understand how hard they work and the danger they are in."

*Thank you all so very much.*

*Sincerely,  
Judy Jackson*



**"Governor Davis:**

I am a native Californian, currently residing in Weimar, California. The recent "Ponderosa Fire" came within one mile of my home.

I wanted you to know what a marvelous job the CDF crews and the auxiliary OES crews did in fighting this fire. The terrain here is brutal from a firefighting standpoint. The air tankers and helicopters were an absolute life saver for those of us in this area, as were the hard working ground crews who had to climb in where bulldozers could not gain access. We are so grateful for the 2,100 plus personnel that were dispatched to squelch this fire.

The crews were talented, professional, and very compassionate during a very difficult time for area residents. I have heard about their activities on the news before, but this was my first (and hopefully last) first-hand experience with them. I feel my tax dollars are well spent in providing such an incredible team of people and equipment dedicated to preventing and putting out fires.

When contracts come up for negotiation, I hope that CDF crews will receive compensation packages befitting the importance of their jobs."

***Cassandra Reeves  
Weimar, CA***

**Many thanks to all the 911 Emergency  
Crews that responded to the Weimar  
Ponderosa Fire**

**Thank you for saving birds and butterflies  
Ladybugs and bees  
For being swift to respond  
To protect our forest thick with trees  
You battled the blaze in the heat of the days  
And through long hours of each night  
Never failing to give your all  
Until you won the fight  
Thank you for saving wildlife  
And the land they roam  
Thank you for all you've risked  
To save each Home Sweet Home**

***With much appreciation and gratitude  
John and Deborah Owen  
Weimar, CA***

**"We would like to add our names to what must be an incredibly long list of grateful people.**

Our property is adjacent to the Needmore Drive property where yesterday's fire started, and we cannot adequately express our gratitude for performance of the CDF professionals who responded to that incident.

While we fully realize the nature of the area where we live, and have done everything we can do to make our property defensible, we consider the privacy and quiet to be worth the risks. But, we have to say there is no sound sweeter than that of CDF tankers, helicopters, engines, bulldozers and chainsaws! Every day, the men and women who run them are our heroes, but especially on a day like yesterday.

Thank you seems inadequate, but thank all of you at CDF."

***Don and Patti Dolan  
Shingle Springs, CA***

**"My husband and I are supremely grateful for the huge efforts of the CDF firefighters, as well as personnel from other agencies, risking their lives to protect the residents and property in those areas affected by the Darby Fire. We have a home in the Blue Lake Springs area of Arnold, CA, which was on stand-by last week. While we won't have a chance to thank each individual personally we plan to show our gratitude with a generous donation to the California Fire Foundation.**

Again, you have our utmost gratitude for your heroic efforts. May you all always be safe on your vital missions."

***Bob & Liz Moore***



***Governor Davis greets the troops during a  
visit to the Poe Fire in Butte County.***

# Fire season severity recognized by Governor

by Carol Elwell, executive assistant, CDF Executive Office

Does CDF know how to put together a major event at a moment's notice?

YOU BET!! That's what happened on June 14, 2001, when Governor Davis requested a press conference at our Aviation Management Unit (AMU) facility at Mather the very next day!

CDF's major incident experience made pulling this together "a piece of cake". And, the reason for the event increased the incentive to have everything go off without a hitch. With extreme fire hazard conditions already occurring in the north half of the state this early in the season, Governor Davis would use the press conference to emphasize the dangers, and to sign an Executive Order authorizing funding for additional fire fighting resources.

An outstanding static display of aircraft and engines was set up at AMU as a backdrop for the Governor and attending dignitaries. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) was represented by several engines, and a fire crew from Growlersburg Conservation Camp was also on hand.

When the Governor arrived, Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse began the proceedings by explaining, utilizing various charts on display, how this summer California was already experiencing unusual burn conditions, especially in the north half of the state. A chart on fuel moisture levels showed heavy fuels like timber, as well as lighter fuels like grass and shrubs, were already critically dry. When a fire starts in these types of conditions the potential loss of natural resources, homes, and lives is high.

In addition, Chief Allshouse talked about the Sudden Oak Death Syndrome that was killing oak trees in several California counties. These dying trees were only contributing to the already extreme fire hazard.

Chief Allshouse stated, "We are gravely concerned about the burning conditions and urge the citizens of California to take every precaution and make every effort to have a defensible space around their homes. Thanks to the support of Governor Davis, we are prepared to do our best."

After the Governor made his way to the podium to begin the formal proceedings, CDF Director Andrea Tuttle welcomed all in attendance and noted what a good friend Governor Davis has been to CDF in supporting our efforts. "With his decisive action today, the Governor is getting ahead of the curve by making sure that CDF and OES have the resources they need to protect the people and natural resources of California as we head into this severe fire season. His commitment to safeguarding the health and safety of our citizens is absolute".

Governor Davis announced several additions to the state's fire fighting response capabilities for this fire season. These included: 27 new fire engines for distribution to local government from OES ; four retrofitted S2-T air tankers; funding to add a fourth firefighter position on CDF



***Governor Davis signs the executive order as CDF Director Andrea Tuttle, Folsom City Fire Chief Eric Dutton, Elk Grove Fire Chief Mark Meaker, and Glen Newman, CDF Deputy Director, Fire Protection look on.***

wildland engines; five additional conservation camp crews; re-opening of 10 lookout towers; adding a specialized infrared camera-equipped aircraft to CDF's fleet; and he stated that the California National Guard would be available for immediate response to major wild-fire incidents. The Governor said, "I am committed to doing everything I can to make your jobs as easy as possible. I am giving you the tools to take on the task."

The Governor then signed an Executive Order outlining this fire action plan. "I am taking this proactive step during this extraordinary fire season to ensure that the people and resources of the State have the best protection possible. We're hoping for the best, but we're prepared for the worst," said Governor Davis. Director Tuttle then presented the Governor with his very own CDF Nomex jacket.

See **GOVERNOR**, page 15



## **GOVERNOR:** *from page 14*

Following the presentation, the Director introduced Bryan Zollner, CDF Deputy Chief of Public Education. Bryan has been a firefighter with CDF for 17 years, working his way up the ranks from a summer seasonal firefighter to his current position directing CDF's public education efforts statewide. "Bryan is a dedicated and well-respected firefighter who during his career has been awarded the Medal of Valor," said the director.

Bryan thanked the Governor and other elected officials for the additional staffing and needed resources. "This will help enhance the service

we provide to the public and make the job safer. Remember, as we stand here, the men and women of CDF are responding to emergencies around the state, placing themselves in harms way."

Also thanking the Governor for his support of the fire community was Dallas Jones, Director of the Office of Emergency Services, who wrapped up the event before an S2-T airtanker demonstration took place.

With all cameras and eyes on the sky, a CDF S2-T airtanker made a fly-by along the Mather runway, releasing 1,200 gallons of water just as it would release retardant on an active fire.

The event was well attended.

Nearly all Sacramento and some Bay area television stations were on hand, as were radio and print reporters. Dignitaries included: Senator Mike Machado, Assemblymembers Dick Dickerson, Helen Thompson and Anthony Pescetti; and Tom Gardner, president, CDF Firefighters. Local fire chiefs that were present included Dennis Smith of Sacramento City Fire Department, Tony Corado of South Placer Fire Department, Mark Meaker of Elk Grove Fire Department, Rich Martinez of Sacramento Metro Fire Department, Mike Kirkle of Woodbridge Fire Department, and Eric Dutton of Folsom City Fire Department.

# Changes in the ranks

Asst. Region Chief, Administration  
Southern Region

## **Candace Gregory**

*by Karen Guillemín, fire prevention specialist I, Tulare Unit*

Chief Gregory is a 23-year CDF veteran. She began her career with CDF as a seasonal firefighter in her hometown county of Butte in 1977. In 1980 she promoted to fire apparatus engineer for the Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit and in 1982 she accepted a forestry graduate trainee position in Fresno. Chief Gregory then promoted to fire captain working in both the Fresno-Kings and Butte Ranger Units. The call to become battalion chief came from the San Bernardino Ranger Unit in 1987, where Gregory worked for the Unit's Mountain Battalion. The battalion is home to the Insect Control Program, which is operated in cooperation with San Bernardino County. She also worked as the West Valley Battalion Chief, which required interaction with a variety of

local government sections, three counties, two national forests and several local fire departments. In 1991 Chief Gregory went to Sacramento as a newly promoted division chief, assigned to the Department's new All-Risk Division, which included FIREScope responsibilities. Chief Gregory returned to San Bernardino in 1994 as the division chief in charge of Support Services where she oversaw an integrated state and county budget that exceeded \$22 million.

In the course of her career, Chief Gregory has served in many incident assignments. In 1994, she served as incident commander for a head-on train collision in the Cajon Pass. The incident involved trains from Union and Southern Pacific railroads. It received national attention



and involved the coordination of more than 20 local, state, and federal agencies. During the 1994 Northridge earthquake Chief Gregory was liaison for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She was also a member of a CDF Incident Command Team.

Chief Gregory's ladder of success continued as she was appointed

*See **GREGORY**, page 16*

## **GREGORY: from page 15**

acting deputy chief, San Bernardino Ranger Unit in 1996. She brought her experience in support services to this position as she continued the support services duties along with the responsibilities of divisions that included the area between San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties. Chief Gregory was appointed to Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Chief on April 1, 1997.

Chief Gregory says she has worked with many great people who have encouraged her to reach the level she is at today. She noted

especially the encouragement she received from her first CDF fire captain when she was a firefighter. Now retired, Fire Captain Jim Wilson encouraged his firefighters to participate in discovering more efficient methods of fighting fires. This included hose pack and hose lay design. Her battalion chief at the time, now Butte Unit Chief, Bill Sager, encouraged her to prepare herself to promote, with career path guidance. It was through this type of encouraging and mentoring, that she decided to make CDF her career.

Chief Gregory says that in light of the challenges that CDF is seeing with the "changing face" impacts, it is this same type of encouragement and mentoring that we should all do to help a future career CDF person.

She has always kept a positive outlook toward her jobs with CDF and looks forward to the challenges of her new position, working as the assistant region chief for Administration in the Southern Region.

## Asst. Region Chief, Administration Northern Region

### **Wayne Mitchell**

*by Carlos Garcia, student assistant,  
CDF Public Education and Public Affairs Offices*

The ties between Wayne Mitchell and CDF stretch back 25 years, and in that time the job has taken him to assignments all over California. Recently, in his promotion to assistant region chief of Administration, Wayne finds himself at Northern Region Headquarters in Santa Rosa.

Wayne's career path started in 1974 when he graduated from Humboldt State University with a degree in forestry. After graduation Wayne headed south to Los Angeles County where he worked as a fire crew supervisor. In 1976 Wayne joined the ranks of CDF when he became a graduate trainee at the old CDF Region 5 Headquarters in Monterey. Subsequent assignments took him to the San Luis Obispo Unit as a crew supervisor at Cuesta Camp and as a station captain at Cambria and Cayucos fire stations and then to the Shasta Trinity Unit as a forest practice inspector.

Wayne soon got his first taste of

working with important pre-fire issues when he promoted to a Vegetation Management Program (VMP) coordinator position in Sonoma County. Wayne assisted the Marin County Fire Department with VMP when they conducted prescribed burns on the south face of Mt. Tamalpais in the early 1980s.

Wayne made his way to Sacramento in 1986 serving as a division chief, fire protection analyst and later as the deputy chief for Fire Planning. His position at CDF Headquarters provided many interesting assignments. For example, in 1988 Wayne spent about three weeks at Moose Creek, Idaho predicting fire behavior on a 54,000 acre wildland fire in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

In 1991, when the Tunnel Fire in Oakland resulted in the loss of 2,900 structures, Wayne was asked to do damage assessments. The city of Oakland still uses the core elements



of the geographic information system that Wayne and the damage assessment team established.

Eventually Wayne promoted to staff chief in charge of implementing the newly adopted California Fire Plan. As head of the new Fire Plan, Wayne worked to implement new Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policies focused on preparing citizens to live with California's frequent catastrophic fires. The new plan emphasized pre-fire preparations that allow local and CDF

*See MITCHELL, page 17*



## **MITCHELL:** from page 16

authorities to identify and address hazards before they burn. These projects included many of the same types that Wayne had coordinated in the field, and the Fire Plan enjoyed many success stories during his tenure as staff chief. Looking back on his time with the Fire Plan, Wayne is proud of how fire fighting personnel from around the state were able to take the tools and concepts provided by the State Fire Plan and use them to good advantage.

In his new position at Northern Region Headquarters, Wayne finds himself in an assignment that does not require him to implement drastic change. Rather, his position will call on his meticulous devotion to detail that has characterized his past projects in the department.

Looking to the future of CDF, Wayne sees possibilities for the department to use automation to speed up our crucial work. Whether it's pre-fire vegetation management

programs coordinated on the Internet, or E-Pay for CDF employees, Wayne foresees a department that is ever innovating and adaptive.

"CDF is a leadership organization, and that has made us a world class fire fighting operation." In that spirit, Wayne's innovation and dedication will continue to help the department in meeting the challenges of today and tomorrow.

## Riverside Unit Chief **Tom Tisdale**

With over 20 years in CDF and 29 plus years devotion to Riverside County Fire Department, Chief Tom Tisdale has prepared carefully for the fire chief position.

Tom began his Riverside County Fire Department career in May of 1971 when he signed on as a volunteer firefighter at the Highgrove Fire Station. His long time goal at that time was to someday be the Riverside County Fire Department Chief, a goal that was achieved on January 1, 2001.

Tom began his "full-time" fire service career with the Rubidoux Fire Department in 1975 and started his "full-time" CDF career in 1977 at the Perris Emergency Command Center (ECC) as an emergency command center operator. In 1980 Tom promoted to a fire crew supervisor position at the Rainbow Conservation Camp in San Diego County and worked there until 1983 when he returned to Riverside County Fire CDF as a fire captain at the Perris ECC.

In May of 1985 Tom was tasked with creating the Riverside County Fire/Health Department Hazardous Materials Response Team, the first level "A" Hazardous Materials

Response Team in Riverside County and in CDF. This was one of the many highlights of his career and he continued as a commander of the Hazardous Materials Response Team until September of 1990, when he was promoted to battalion chief / county fire marshal for the Riverside County Fire Department over the planning and engineering, fire prevention and law enforcement sections.

In 1993 while attending the CDF Peace Officer Academy in Ione, Tom was promoted to division chief and was brought on-board the CDF reorganization team at the Regional Operations Center in Riverside. He headed the Sierra-South Region Emergency Operations Coordination Center serving an area from Sacramento to San Diego. In 1997 Chief Tisdale was promoted to deputy chief, Regional Operations at the Sierra-South Region Operations Section in Riverside.

August 1999 was his return to Riverside County Fire Department service with his appointment to deputy chief for Administration at the Perris Headquarters.

Tom resides in Wildomar and is very active in the local communities



and the activities of the Riverside County Fire Department, the Riverside County Volunteer Firefighters Associations and local VFCs.

Chief Tisdale holds an associate of sciences degree in the field of fire science from Chaffey Community College. He has served as a Fire Science Instructor at Chaffey Community College, San Bernardino Valley College, Crafton Hills College, and Riverside Community College as well as for the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) in San Luis Obispo and the National Fire Academy (NFA) in Emmitsburg Maryland.

# Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Chief

## Stan Craig

*by Anna Smith,  
fire prevention specialist II,  
Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit*

The announcement of Stan Craig to Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Chief highlights a career that started in 1973, in the Orange Ranger Unit. Throughout his career Stan has worked in Orange, Riverside, the CDF Academy and the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. These assignments have given him a broad base of experience in the various roles CDF plays throughout the state.

In Orange he worked in truck company, engine company, and paramedic assignments. From Orange he moved to rural Riverside County, where he served as a fire captain at the Elsinore and Lakeland Village stations. His next assignment led him to Ione where he was responsible for curriculum development and instruction for Emergency Vehicle Operations and Law Enforcement Pursuit Driving courses. He also was involved in Vehicle Fire Safety and Hazardous Materials training in conjunction

with the CHP Academy.

From Ione Chief Craig transferred to Coarsegold as a battalion chief. In 1990 he promoted to the position of operations division chief in Madera County. In Madera he has worked closely with the city and county governments. He has also worked with the city of Madera in the transition to CDF.

In 1997 Chief Craig promoted to deputy chief in Mariposa, serving as executive officer over the CDF Unit, plus Madera and Merced counties, and Madera City. He worked closely with Chief Candace Gregory through her four year tenure as unit chief.

With all of these accomplishments, what brings him the most pride is his family. Chief Craig resides in Coarsegold with his wife and daughter. He has two sons, Casey, 25, who after serving seven seasons as a CDF firefighter I, is now employed as an emergency medical technician. Cory, 24, who was also a seasonal for three seasons, is now employed in the construction business. Wife, Scarlett is a nutrition assistant at the Kaiser-



Permanente Medical Center in Fresno, and daughter Kelci, eight, is a volunteer in prevention and assists unit prevention staff with school programs.

Chief Craig is looking forward to continuing the strong relationships with the various local, county, state and federal agencies, departments, and governments that share goals common with CDF's. He believes that from those working relationships the taxpayers are best served, and their tax dollars are maximized.

# Fleet Administration Chief

## Rich Just

*by Alisha Herring, secretary,  
Fire Protection*

Rich Just has once again found his way back to Sacramento, this time as staff chief for Fleet Administration. As a new position for the Department, the staff chief over Fleet Administration is directly responsible for the management of CDF's Aviation Management and Mobile Equipment Units here in Sacramento.

Rich started his career with CDF in 1967 as a seasonal firefighter and became permanent in 1972 as a fire apparatus engineer with the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Ranger Unit. In 1977, Rich moved to fire prevention in the San Luis Obispo Unit and continued to promote through the ranks. He moved to the Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit in 1983 as a fire prevention officer I. His duties included civil cost recovery, coordinating the unit's law enforcement program, and working with the CDF Arson Investigation Unit. Rich

promoted to a state forest ranger II in Tehama-Glenn in 1989 and took over as administrative officer within the Unit. In 1992 he promoted to deputy chief for Fire Prevention in the Region II office in Redding. In 1993 he again promoted to Sacramento as the chief of Fire Prevention and Law Enforcement. In 1994 Rich transferred to the Northern Operation Center as the operations chief. Just transferred to the Siskiyou Unit Chief position in 1997.

*See JUST, page 19*



**JUST:** from page 18



In his new position, Rich has many significant issues to deal with right now. "All of the supervisors within the Mobile Equipment Program at Davis are retiring, and the most crucial issue is to transition a new team in to carry on the program," says Just. "However, I have two talented individuals, Rick Brown and Richard Armstrong, who will assist me and the new senior, with

the tune-up of our Mobile Equipment Program." Rich will also deal with revising CDF's replacement and allocation standards to reflect funding levels and the age of the CDF fleet. "I have gathered experts from Sacramento and the field to assist in developing a new standard," said Just. He expects those standards to be completed by this winter.

"Issues pertaining to the Aviation Program are another concern altogether," said Rich. "We are working on developing and awarding a new logistics contract, which will handle all of the supplies and records for our maintenance program. And, we have been going through the process to award a new aircraft services contract to supply all of our mechanics, airtanker and air attack pilots." In addition, Rich and his staff are planning the move of the Aviation Program from its current location at Mather to the other end of Sacramento at McClellan Park. "We will require assistance from many facets of CDF to accomplish this major undertaking," said Rich.

He feels that one extremely important issue for these programs is the need to develop a five-10 year plan for the future. "We need to

determine what we are going to do once the UH-1H helicopters approach the end of their useful life, and how we are going to keep vendors interested in bidding on our Mobile Equipment contracts. Along with this, of course, we will have to seek the appropriate funding levels for Mobile Equipment and Aviation."

The position of staff chief, Fleet Management, has been in the works for many years. "The Fire Protection Program has been forward thinking in establishing the position, and I am fortunate to be the first person to fill it," said Just. "It acknowledges the tremendous importance of the Air and Mobile Equipment programs in CDF's mission." The position also assists the assistant deputy director for Fire Protection by focusing strictly on the fleet programs.

"Most of my goals, are focused on the issues mentioned," says Chief Just. "But I also want to be able to represent Fleet Management to Fire Protection, and to the other programs of the Department, in a way that improves the flow of information to and from the various functions."

## Aviation Chief Mike Padilla

*by Tony Favro,  
administrative officer II,  
Aviation Management Unit*

On March 12, 2001, CDF Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse announced the appointment of Mike Padilla to the position of senior air operations officer for CDF's Aviation Management Unit (AMU). With more than 30 years of aviation and firefighting experience, Chief Padilla is well suited for this position. He has spent time on the fire lines as a seasonal firefighter, fire apparatus engineer for CDF, helitack crewman and foreman with the National Park

Service, flown over 4,000 hours around the world as a pilot in the United States Army and the California Air National Guard, served as CEO of a non-profit company dedicated to promoting air ambulance systems in the U.S., worked as a supervisor and manager in various state agencies as well as on special projects for the Governor's Office, and performed a myriad of functions within CDF's Aviation Management Unit.

Chief Padilla first came to CDF as a seasonal firefighter in 1964. After three years on the fire lines, he worked as a forest fire truck driver in 1968. He then moved on to the

National Park Service, where he supervised helitack operations for fire and search and rescue in Yosemite in 1969 and again from 1972-1974.

In 1974, Chief Padilla obtained a bachelor's degree in environmental resources from California State University Sacramento (CSUS); he earned his master's in communications from CSUS in 1978.

From 1976 through 1981, Chief Padilla volunteered his services as president of the board and chief executive officer for the Aero Medical Evacuation Group (AMEG). This

*See PADILLA, page 20*

## **PADILLA:** *from page 19*

non-profit organization promoted the use of civilian helicopter air ambulances in the United States when only the military had such assets, advocated a statewide network of cooperating hospitals and clinics, and sought to standardize aircraft, equipment, and medivac crew proficiency levels.

Chief Padilla's state service spans over 25 years and several different departments, from the Air Resources Board where he worked on the implementation of the California Clean Air Act, to the Resources Agency where he advised, consulted, and conducted special studies at the executive level, to the Department of Toxic Substances Control where he served as the chief of the Office of Policy Development and Strategic Planning, to his current tenure with CDF.

Chief Padilla returned to CDF in 1991 when he was appointed as an air operations officer II with the Aviation Management Unit. Over the next 10 years, he served in various capacities, including aviation support program manager, assistant program manager for the Fixed Wing Program, assistant program manager and lead pilot for the Helicopter Program, and aviation safety officer.

Chief Padilla also has extensive experience as a pilot in the United States Army and the California Air National Guard, including leading medivac and search and rescue operations in the United States, Southeast Asia, Panama, and most recently in Hungary, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1998-99. He served as the aircraft commander on the first military type II aircraft used in fire fighting in California in 1976 and on the first military type I helicopter to drop water in training and on an active fire in 1987. He has over 500 hours in type I and II helicopters performing initial attack, water drops, crew transport, long-



line, and external cargo operations, and in 1996 he helped develop the Interagency Military Helicopter Firefighting Program used by CDF, the USFS, and the California National Guard. Chief Padilla last year turned down an opportunity to return to Bosnia as NATO's civilian deputy chief of aviation for normalization in order to remain with CDF, feeling that there were still many things he wanted to accomplish here.

Since taking over as chief of Aviation in March, Chief Padilla has already faced numerous challenges, including an early and dangerous fire season, the extension of CDF's current aircraft services contract, which provides pilots and maintenance for CDF's fire fighting aircraft, a pending move of the maintenance facility to its new home at McClellan, and the development, bid, and initial award of new contracts for aircraft services and logistical support. This last issue has been the result of countless hours of work by AMU, the Contracts Office, Legal Office, and other CDF staff to develop and implement a request for proposal process that would ensure that CDF attracted the best qualified bidders. It will manifest itself in the years to come as the new contracts are put into place.

As he looks to the future, Chief Padilla knows there are many challenges still facing the aviation program. The "changing face" of CDF by no means has bypassed the aviation program, and the ability to continue to attract and retain experienced people in the aviation community will prove to be the biggest challenge of all.

"It is important to keep the history of the Department's Aviation Program in mind when looking to the future", says Chief Padilla, "We should never again be faced with making choices that pit safety against training, equipment, and experience. Too many of our colleagues have made the ultimate choice."

Chief Padilla and his staff are also working feverishly with other elements within CDF to facilitate the move of the Aviation Program from its current location at Mather Field to McClellan Park. In addition, he looks forward to the completion of CDF's conversion of its airtanker fleet from the S-2A to the faster and more powerful S-2T, and he realizes that CDF's aging helicopter fleet may be facing changes in the coming years, a challenge he readily awaits.

"I've seen the Department's Aviation Program grow and mature for the past 20 years and it has accomplished a great deal, giving the people of California the premier aerial firefighting program worldwide," says Chief Padilla. "It is the men and women of the CDF aviation family working in unison with the entire Department that will take us to the next level of professional achievement. I am honored to be able to contribute my part to this program, but more honored to be able to serve with an organization as loved and cherished by the citizens of California."



# Human Resources Chief

## Bill Robertson

*by Carlos Garcia, student assistant,  
CDF Public Education and Public Affairs Offices*

On May 1, Bill Robertson took the reins as chief of Human Resources at CDF. His office directly administers personnel services for Sacramento Headquarters, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the CDF Academy, while overseeing the administration of the Northern and Southern Region offices.

Included within human resources are two units. The personnel services unit includes classification and pay, examination, transactions and policy and project services. The Occupational Safety and Health Programs (OSHPros) unit includes the health and fitness, safety and workers' compensation.

Bill, a graduate from the California State College of Pennsylvania, holds a bachelor's degree in sociology. His experience in state service stretches back for 25 years. Originally, Bill started out in 1976 as a staff services analyst at the Department of Social Services, a position he held until 1981. Since then Bill has served in departments such as: health services, transportation, consumer affairs, and most recently, the newly established Department of Child Support Services where Bill served as a staff services manager II (SSMII) over human resources and business services.

Though Bill has worked in human resources for many years in many departments, he still finds his work exciting. "Human resources is a dynamic field that requires people to be creative and adaptive. Many new organizational ideas have come about recently and they require people who can look at issues from both an administrative and operational perspective," said Bill.

In addition to his career in human

resource programs, Bill also has valuable experience in fiscal analysis, program management and contract services. Bill believes his diverse background will be beneficial to human resources at CDF. "I think it's important to be able to look at the issues we will face in human resources from a broad perspective, with an understanding of how our choices impact the ability of CDF to perform its mission. In regards to personnel issues, I have been fortunate enough to develop a good sense of what works and what doesn't, and I am looking forward to bringing those best practices to the issues facing CDF."

One issue that will dominate human resources for years to come is the "changing face" within the department. "CDF has actually been well ahead of the curve when compared to other state agencies, in recognizing the impact of this issue," said Bill. With so many CDFers reaching retirement age, Bill understands the importance of addressing the issue with the most effective solutions.

"One of my main objectives," said Bill, "is to maintain the CDF infrastructure. We need to be sure that we are fully engaged in staff development and in providing testing opportunities for our employees to advance and fill the shoes of their predecessors. We also need to examine the classification structure here at CDF to make sure that



emphasis is appropriately placed on the skill sets needed to meet the challenges of our mission."

Asked what he thought of CDF before joining the Department, Bill tells the story, "One of my best friends is

a former employee of CDF. Though her career in state service has taken her to other departments, she often tells me how much she enjoyed working for this Department. When the Chief of Human Resources position became available, she very much encouraged me to experience CDF for myself."

While having been with CDF for just a short while, Bill said that he has already gotten a feel for the character of the Department. "The clear sense of vision within the Department is remarkably clear. I have been impressed by the ability of all our employees to understand how their job fits into the CDF mission. In this Department you see the same dedication and sense of purpose from the support staff here at human resources as you see from front-line employees out in the field."

In his spare time Bill enjoys jogging, playing guitar and reading. He and his wife Rhonda are the parents of two daughters and one son. "My wife and I are extremely proud of our children," said Bill.

In regards to his future at CDF, Bill said, "I am looking forward to promoting a healthy office of human resources that can assist in its strategic planning and can effectively facilitate CDF in carrying out its mission."

## EEO Officer Karen Cohen

*by Carlos Garcia, student assistant,  
CDF Public Education and  
Public Affairs Offices*

On January 22, 2001 Karen Cohen was appointed as CDF Equal Employment Opportunity Officer. With 23 years of state service, Karen brings a wealth of experience to CDF. During her previous 18 years at the State Personnel Board (SPB), Karen gained valuable knowledge in different assignments, including administering the departmental equal employment opportunity (EEO) program there.

EEO is a multi-faceted program that addresses many issues within the Department. Ensuring equal opportunity within CDF is one aspect of Karen's new position. By offering employees in low paying classes career development opportunities such as cross training and appointment to bridging classes, Karen plans to implement an improved upward mobility program. "Upward mobility programs in state service have fallen by the wayside, and one of my goals is to ensure that CDF's program is effective," she said.

In addition to upward mobility, Karen is responsible for making certain that CDF has adequate staff for special programs such as bilingual services. "It's imperative that CDF have enough certified bilingual staff to meet the ever increasing language needs of all the non-English speaking people that we provide services to," she said. She plans to attract more bilingual employees to the Department by promoting CDF job opportunities to the state's diverse workforce through job fairs and other inclusive recruitment efforts.

As the CDF Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Karen intends to work closely with both the North-



ern and Southern Regions to ensure that consistency exists in the EEO Program throughout the state. "We must work together so that all our programs are in compliance with the most current court decisions and the federal and state law."

The discrimination complaint process is another aspect of EEO, and according to Karen, one way of achieving success with the process is through the EEO training CDF provides its employees. "It's important that all our employees understand how to avoid discriminatory practices and how to work cooperatively in a diverse workplace," she said. Karen wants to improve the discrimination complaint process by encouraging CDF employees to participate in mediation for quick resolution of EEO complaints and other workplace disputes and by setting up an automated system for tracking complaints.

Another important aspect of EEO includes working collaboratively with the Disabled Advisory Council and using the Limited Examination Appointment Process (LEAP) to encourage disabled employees to enter and remain in the workforce. One goal of Karen's is to increase disabled representation within the Department.

Asked what will be the biggest challenge of her new position, Karen said that "Many EEO programs have lost focus as well as funding during the last 10 years, and the result has been ineffective and understaffed programs. It will be a challenge to bring our EEO program up to speed so that we are able both to meet the needs of our employees and to be in compliance with state and federal law."

Karen, who holds a masters in public administration from California State University, Sacramento, and a bachelor's from UC Berkeley, is a credentialed K-6 teacher who also serves as chairperson of the Personnel Board for the city of Davis. She is also active in the town's politics.

About her impressions of CDF so far, Karen said, "I am very impressed with the professionalism and commitment of the employees. I value the support and friendliness of the CDF employees, and I am pleased to be a part of the CDF family."

## Fire Plan Chief Rich Schell

*by Carlos Garcia, student assistant,  
CDF Public Education and Public  
Affairs Offices*

Rich Schell has come home to Sacramento Headquarters...again. As a matter of fact, the new staff chief for the Fire Plan, is currently serving his third tour of duty in Sacramento. After almost four years at the Northern Region Headquarters as the staff chief of Management Services, Rich is once again taking the slow elevator ride every morning to the 16<sup>th</sup> floor.

Rich enjoyed his time in Santa Rosa, and said that as staff chief he had the opportunity to work with

*See **SCHELL**, page 23*



## ***SCHELL: from page 22***

some of CDF's finest professionals in a challenging and complex arena. However, talking to Rich, one gets the impression that he has been training for his new position his entire career, and upon examination of his resume, it certainly seems true. His experience began 26 years ago when he started out as a forestry graduate trainee. Since that time, he has served in various positions at both the administrative and operations level within the department.

Among Rich's most memorable assignments is the time he spent as director of operations and fire training at the CDF Academy because he saw the "changing face of CDF" first hand. Not only did the Academy give Rich the chance to work with some of the veteran CDFers who have helped shape and define the Department's recent history, he also had the opportunity to interact with students. "The future of the Department is in good hands," said Rich, "and I am proud to have been a part of it."

Another noteworthy assignment in Rich's career includes a fire prevention engineer position, where he represented the Department and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in the development of Public Resource Code (PRC) 4290. The landmark regulations dealt with roads, water supplies, and fuel modification.

Taking the helm now of the State Fire Plan, which has been in place for a number of years, Rich sees the importance of continuing to build on the foundation that has already been established by his predecessors. Specifically, Rich acknowledges the important work of those who were involved in the planning, formation and writing of the current California Fire Plan. "Jack Weist, Wayne Mitchell and Jim Troehler have to be credited for the tremendous work they have done here," said Rich.

As staff chief of the Fire Plan,



Rich's duties include supporting the Units and contract counties in their efforts to develop a local version of the fire plan. He works with region and unit staff to distribute millions of dollars of federal money from the National Fire Plan so that solutions can solve local problems. In addition, Rich provides assistance to the Units with their pre-fire projects such as vegetation management programs, fuel breaks, and defensible space. "The 2001 fire season has provided many examples as to the proven value of pre-fire work and the need to further implement these projects in the future," said Rich.

One very important project that Rich is working on that will shape the future of fire planning is a GIS data warehouse that is currently being developed with the assistance of Battalion Chief Jeff Harter. Its completion requires cooperation from local, state and federal agencies, and when finished, the warehouse will store an electronic database filled with critical fire information, that will be a resource to both fire planners and homeowners.

While it is clear that Rich enjoys his new position, how does he feel about working in Sacramento? Some CDF staff enjoy working at CDF Headquarters while others prefer

fieldwork. But, Sacramento is just fine for Rich, and for good reason. Not only are the offices at CDF Headquarters occupied by many of Rich's friends, his wife, Alta Glass-Schell works just down the hall from him. "She likes having me here," said Rich, "Not many spouses have the luxury of understanding each other's work, and we're lucky to have that."

So how would Rich's wife Alta describe him? "He's a very caring and professional person," she said. "He is truly compassionate and is always there to help other members of the CDF family." Welcome home, Rich Schell.

## **Bob Martines says farewell**

After more than 36 years with CDF Chief Robert Martines has decided to retire on July 31, 2001.

Bob started his CDF career in 1964 as a seasonal firefighter at the Yucaipa Fire Station in the San Bernardino Unit. After a tour with the US Marine Corps he was appointed to permanent engineer in the Riverside Unit in 1966. Returning to San Bernardino he promoted up through captain and fire prevention officer I. In 1977, he promoted to battalion chief and later to division chief in the Riverside Unit, and then transferred back to San Bernardino Unit as a division chief. In 1988 he promoted to deputy chief at the South Region Headquarters in Riverside, and in 1990 transferred to the Riverside Unit as the operations deputy chief. He then promoted to region operations chief

See **MARTINES**, page 24

## **CHANGES:** from page 23



for the Sierra-South Region at Riverside. In 1998 he promoted to Sierra Area Chief in Fresno, transferring back to South Region Headquarters in Riverside as the South Area Chief in July 2000.

Chief Martines has had a long and

distinguished career. He has performed in almost every assignment in operations and administration within CDF. Along the way he received a Supervisory Superior Performance Award, a Sustained Superior Accomplishment Award, and the highest CDF honor, the Lewis A. Moran Award in 1995. Martines is well known for his practical knowledge, innovation, and leadership skills.

Some of the highlights in Chief Martines' distinguished career include being one of the first in CDF to be selected on a USFS National Fire Team, serving as operations chief on the 486,000 acre Clover Mist Fire in Yellowstone Park in 1988; heading CDF's largest emergency command center in the Riverside Unit and serving as the unified command coordinator during the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. He was instrumental in CDF's first involvement in the FEMA-sponsored Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) from Riverside County.

Martines was personally involved in the implementation of the Hazardous Materials Team and the Swiftwater Rescue Program, both in Riverside County. The Swiftwater Rescue Program was the first of its type in CDF. He also helped pioneer the CDF Helicopter Short Haul Rescue Program that is in use today.

"People are our most valued resource. I have been blessed to always work with a wonderful staff. My accomplishments are not due to me alone. It is all of us working as a team. CDF has always been good for me. I think CDF is the best and I am proud to have been a part of it," said Bob.

Bob and his wife LoVae reside in Redlands and for the first year of retirement they plan to travel throughout the United States and Canada in their new RV. Along the way they plan on attending several NASCAR races.

Good Luck Bob! Your CDF family will miss you!

## **CDF met the Summer energy challenge; fall and winter will test our commitment**



Congratulations to all of us at CDF ! We contributed to the state's success in meeting the energy challenge this summer. This active commitment set an example that helped Californians conserve electricity and prevent rolling blackouts.

This year, CDF and other state offices significantly cut electricity use from January through the end of August compared to the same period in 2000. For example, in monitoring 37 of the state's largest office buildings covering nearly 12 million square feet, the Department of General Services has recorded an average 22.4 percent drop in electricity use. Despite hikes in utility rates, the state was still able to save more than \$800,000 in cities such as Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, Van Nuys, and Riverside.

While the state has made extraordinary progress in bringing new power generation on line, the threat of shortages remains real. Conservation, both now and for the long term, will continue to be an important part of the strategy to keep the lights on.

Fall and winter months present challenges just as tough as the summer months. There are increased demands for power across the state for lighting, heating and other priorities. So we cannot let our guard down just because the seasons have changed.

You can find some practical cool weather tips on the Flex Your Power website: [www.flexyourpower.ca.gov](http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov) that will help all of us to continue to save power, save money and continue serving the people of California.



# Director honors CDF's best

by Carlos Garcia, student assistant,  
CDF Public Education and Public Affairs Offices

Many of CDF's finest were recognized for their dedication on April 30 in Sacramento at the fourth annual Director's recognition Program Awards. In her address to the award recipients, Director Tuttle spoke of the "tremendous effort given by these exceptional people."

The **Lewis A. Moran Award** is the highest honor bestowed by CDF, and is awarded each year in recognition of an individual whose performance exceeds expectations for a sustained period of time. Recently retired Forest Manager David Dulitz received the award for his sound resource management practices during his 21-year career at Mountain Home State Demonstration Forest. David received \$500 and his name has been engraved on the perpetual plaque in the director's office that houses the names of the other Moran recipients since the award's inception in 1984.

Fire Captain Darryl Sanford of the Butte Unit received the **2000 Firefighter of the Year Award** for his commitment to the values and mission of the Department. Recognized for his commitment to the protection of life and property, Sanford is the second ever recipient of the award. He received \$300.

The **Leadership Award** recognizes an employee who demonstrates the ability to motivate and inspire others to seek solutions to difficult tasks. Joan Jennings, chief of Occupational Safety and Health Programs (OSHPros), received the award for her work in giving definition and structure to the program. She received \$300.

The **2000 Innovation Award** and \$300 went to Fire Captain Steve Norris of the San-Benito Monterey Unit. Since 1991, Captain Norris worked on the CDF Automated



*Retired Forest Manager Dave Dulitz accepts the Lewis A. Moran Award from CDF Director Andrea Tuttle. Dave was honored for his resource management practices on the Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.*



*Fire Captain Darryl Sanford receives the 2000 Firefighter of the Year Award from CDF Director Andrea Tuttle.*

Airbase System, and its success can be attributed to his creativity and innovation.

Dennis Tremelling of the Amador-El Dorado Unit and the Management Services Team were the co-recipients of the **Organizational Enhancement Award**. The award is given annually to an individual and/or group that have demonstrated a commitment to improving interaction within all programs and organizational levels to ensure a comprehensive approach to achieving the Department's mission. The members of the Management Services Team include: Rick Bierman and Mark Pratt (Information Technology), Dennis Miranda, Tamara Mulia and Steve Schlim (Program and Systems Analysis), and Linda Webb (Accounting Office). Each received \$300.

**Superior Accomplishment Awards** were presented to the following employees for their performance and dedication beyond normal job requirements.

From the Northern Region: Richard Mattos, Gerald McLean, Rob Bebensee, Kena Daugherty, Kirk McBride and Danny Len Sykes (Lassen-Modoc). Lon Goetsch, Felipe Guevara, Fredric Nunes, John Elliff and Michael Martin (Santa Clara). Sean Griffis (Nevada-Yuba-Placer), Janet Marshall (Butte), Mike Snyder and Lawrence Erickson (San Mateo-Santa Cruz). Fred Jackson (Siskiyou), Mike Parker and Chris Vallergra (Sonoma-Lake-Napa). Team awards for the Northern Region went to Mark Eays, Philip Anzo and Katrina Blumer (Siskiyou Unit). Dee Spradlin, Kathy Niederberger, and Terry Anderson (Region Office). Finally, William Christen, Ed Brady, Jon Hafstrom, Kurt Dervedde, Kevin O'Neil and James Moranda (Humboldt-Del Norte Unit).

See **HONORS**, page 26

## **HONORS:** *from page 25*

From the Southern Region: Richard Drozen (Tuolumne-Calaveras), Chris Schrowe (Madera-Mariposa-Merced), Scott Watson, Mark Launier and Brian Kirk (Amador-El Dorado). Scott Watson, Laurie Halas (San Luis Obispo) and William Peters (San Bernardino). Team awards for the Southern Region went to Bill Johnson and Becky Robertson (Fresno-Kings Unit), and Ted Enberg (Mendocino), Craig Konklin and Keith Hampton (Madera-Mariposa-Merced) were honored as a north/south team.

Awards for Resource Management staff went to Linda Judd, Mark Gary and Alleah Haley (Region Office). A team award went to William Snyder, Ronald Pape, Jill Butler, Wayne Connor, Wendy Wickizer, Ruth Norman and Alleah Haley (Region Office).

Awards to Sacramento Headquar-

ters staff went to Patricia Sanchez (OSFM-Building Safety Division), Steven Dale (OSFM-Law Enforcement), Jeff Hartsuyker (OSFM-Caltrans Airspace Contract), John Woods (OSFM-Construction), Bob Gorham (OSFM Pipeline Safety), Maria Garcia and sandy Margullis (OSFM-Support Services), Lisa Dowdy and Jeannie Smith (OSFM-Fire Engineering), and Robin Marose (FRAP). Team awards went to Mark Rosenberg and Shawn Saving (FRAP), Star Anderson-Hicks (Technical Services), Shirley Ching (Accounting), Bea Walls (Business Services), Velma Bermudez, Marva Lee, Windy Bouldin, Jo Harlow, Andrea Mantecon and Glen McCray (Human Resources), Richard Klugkist, CarolAnn Hollahan and Cindy Gangler (Information Technology), and Tamara Mulia (Programs and Systems Analysis). Another HQ team award went to Patty Call

(Support Services), Debbie Contreras, (Resource Management), Brent Hinsz (Program Accountability), Carol Forrest and Nancy Crowder (Accounting).

In addition to CDF employees Director Tuttle also recognized outside individuals and organizations that have assisted CDF to carry out its mission. The **Partnership Award** recipients from the North Area were Lonnie Mahenski (Dept. of Corrections), Michael Wopat (Dept. of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology) and Jesse Cox (Lewiston Volunteer Fire Dept.). The South Area awards went to Jan Hamilton (Mariposa Fire Safe Council), Nancy Brumbaugh (Eastern Madera Fire Safe Council), ABC Channel 7, and KFRG FM Radio. Finally, the Headquarters Award went to Pacific Bell. Partnership awards are presented locally by the nominating parties.

# Blending resource management and fire protection

*by Gary Brittner, division chief, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit*

We all know that California is a state with marked contrasts: soaring mountains (Mt. Whitney 14,400'+) to low valleys (Death Valley 200'-); world's tallest tree and "pygmy forests" in Mendocino County. It's sometimes hard to fathom that about 1-1/2 hours from cosmopolitan Sacramento is the relic Gold Rush settlement of Iowa Hill. It's tucked away in the pine forests about 10 miles east of Colfax and Interstate 80. The road to Iowa Hill is an exciting adventure, it's steep and full of tight switchback turns. One notable bend is "car wash" turn. Miss it, and 1500 vertical feet later you get a free car wash in the river. If you live in Iowa Hill you're self reliant. No energy crisis here; the nearest powerline is miles away

along the I-80 corridor! If you want telephone service, bring your cell phone. Iowa Hill citizens love their freedom, solitude, and independence.

On March 15, 2001, I was heading out Kings Hill "Road", a few miles southwest of Iowa Hill, to check seedling vigor and the effectiveness of some herbicide treatment on an area harvested a few years ago. Kings Hill "Road" is tortuous so I use a Suzuki quad runner in order to save the shocks and axles on the pickup. Kings Hill is so remote that even the Iowa Hillians rarely venture there. I was cruising along and in true Smokey Bear fashion caught a whiff of smoke. I didn't see a smoke column and knew there were no cabins out there so I was a bit bewildered. I dismissed it as drifting

smoke from Shirttail Canyon. In a few moments I was into a clearing and surprised by a small (2000 sq.ft.) wildfire! Since the fire was so small and fresh I figured I was about to nab an arsonist red-handed! I was wondering which one of those #\$\$@ was responsible for the crime. Then I got to thinking: there weren't any fresh tracks coming in on the road and it's too far to trek into this neck of the woods. As I approached the fire my curiosity was sated. In the middle of the fire was a tall old pine tree. Then I remembered that a week ago, on March 9, we had a brief thundershower in the area and the pine tree was zapped by lightning. (Not the first time either, this pine

*See **BLENDING**, page 25*

## **BLENDING:** from page 26

was a veteran lighting rod!) It took a full week for the fire to creep down the tree and ignite some dry leaves and needles.

As wildfires go, this was pretty tame, the tallest flames were about 6". There was only a whisper of wind, the humidity was high, and the temperature in the 50's. Fortunately, I tote a sawed-off shovel on the quad's cargo rack in case I need to fix up a dilapidated water bar. Even though I was on Kings Hill, none of his men were available. So,

in the spirit of "total forces", I put my firefighting skills to use and made the initial attack. I anchored at the road and scratched a line around the fire perimeter. After making a containment line I mopped up with my lug sole boots and stomped out a few troublesome cones and branches. The base of the pine tree was still like an oven but there was wide blackline around it now!

Timing is everything. Had I not been there to put out the fire it would have soon crawled into some brush and logging slash in steep terrain and the time-delayed light-

ning strike would have cost thousands of dollars to extinguish.

This incident affirmed at least three things:

Resource Management and Fire Protection are intertwined.

Wildfires occur any time of the year.

The job isn't finished until the paperwork is done. It took me about as much time to fill out the fire report as to scratch in the control line!

## **The great Eagle Lake fish rescue**

*by Gary Lott, forestry fire pilot,  
Bieber Helitack Base*

On April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m. the phone rang at Bieber Helitack and a rather fascinating series of events began to unfold. The caller was State Fish and Game Warden Calvin Albright of the Lassen-Modoc area and he had a problem. It seemed that a rapid drop in water flow in Pine Creek, the primary feeder stream for Eagle Lake, had trapped over 2000-trophy size Eagle Lake Rainbows while they had been attempting to spawn up that stream. Cal was with the Fish and Game biologist at the scene and they were convinced that they would lose this major portion of their breeding stock if help were not forthcoming in very short order. The biologist had remembered reading about copter 205 from Vina Helitack being used some years earlier to transport trapped salmon from Big Chico Creek to the Sacramento River in the water bucket. He asked Cal to see if something similar could be arranged to assist in the current situation. While I was convinced that this was a doable thing I told Cal

that the authorization for such a project would have to come from a much higher level than where I sat and that I would begin making the necessary phone calls and get back to him. I soon discovered that every chief officer in the ranger unit was at a training exercise at area headquarters in Redding. I had the emergency command center page my battalion chief and our operations chief and soon had them on the line and was explaining the situation and the request for assistance. Once they were satisfied with the explanation the wheels began to turn at an ever-increasing rate until the request landed in the office of Northern Region Chief Dave Driscoll. Shortly thereafter, with his blessing, copter 202 and company saddled up and rode to the rescue. Fire Captain Norm Ross drove the helitender to the scene while Fire Captains Donna McCain and Sam McMurray followed in the utility pickup. Fire



***Antelope Conservaton Camp Crew #1 waded into the icy water to capture the stranded Rainbow trout and place them in the helicopter's water bucket.***

Apparatus Engineer Adam Mattos accompanied me in the helicopter. He had retrieved hip waders from Intermountain Conservation Camp for the crew who would be wading in the icy waters of the creek while capturing the hapless fish. Fire Captain Jeff Wood and Antelope crew #1 were dispatched to provide the manpower for the capture and loading of the fish into the aircrafts' water bucket. By 4:30 p.m. all the resources had arrived at the scene on Pine Creek and a plan of action decided upon. A short safety briefing

*See, **FISH** page 28*



**FISH:** from page 27



**CDF Copter 202 heads out with one of many buckets full of Rainbow trout.**

was given and the operation began. With dip nets in hand the crew waded into the thigh deep water and began catching fish, which were then dumped into 33 gallon barrels. While the helicopter hovered overhead holding the bucket upright on an 80' line, other crewmembers poured the fish from the barrels into the bucket. When the bucket could hold no more fish Captain Ross would direct the aircraft by radio up and out of the tall trees surrounding the site and the fish were then flown to open water in the lake and released. This process was repeated many times during the next three hours until all the fish that could be found and caught had been returned to the lake. We then refueled the aircraft, gathered our equipment, said our farewells and returned to Beiber feeling as if we had achieved something worthwhile. It was a dazzling demonstration of what can be accomplished by an organization such as ours when combining rapid decision-making by management with the quick professional response and teamwork of innovative personnel in the field.

## 20 years of VMP

*by Carlos Garcia, student assistant,  
CDF Public Education and Public Affairs Offices*

Two decades ago the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) created the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) to reduce the build up of hazardous fuel conditions in California and promote optimal growing conditions to native plant and wildlife species.

Techniques such as prescribed fire and mechanical thinning of vegetation have been used over the years to "treat areas where fire fuel is most hazardous, so that when fire does break out, the rate of spread, fireline intensity and final overall size will all be reduced," said Tom Larsen, division chief, VMP at Sacramento Headquarters.

As an example, in May 2001, the Amador-El Dorado Unit began a VMP project near Sly Park. The area was chosen because it fits a common profile - wildlands and subdivisions coming together. "Our objective was to create a shaded fuel break that will also provide defensible space protection to the homes in the event of a fire," said Fire Captain David McLean, who is the operations section chief on the Sly Park Firesafe Project.

VMP projects play a critical role in protecting life and property in California, but projects near communities like Sly Park "require substantially more planning due to the communities that are adjacent to the project," said McLean. The Sly Park burn plan allowed for a series of small burns that would reduce heavy vegetation throughout open wilderness acres in the area over a period of time.

FC McLean and his crews had perfect conditions on May 16 when they began the first phase of the plan. They were able to burn 10 acres that day.

Historically, prescribed burns have taken place on a large scale in open wildland areas, but in recent years some of that has changed. The current state fire plan, published in 1996, implemented a shift in the emphasis of VMP programs from large projects in open wildland areas, "to smaller projects closer to new developments."

The Sly Park burn exemplifies the change that has occurred in VMP projects over the years. Not only have projects become smaller, but also more technical due to the need to protect homes and other structures being built in wildland conditions. Like Sly Park, a place where wildland and structures mix is commonly referred to as the "intermix," and California has and will continue to see tremendous growth in these areas.

Chris Waters, the VMP coordinator for the Sly Park burn, was responsible for assessing the possible impacts of a project. Planning a burn so close to a community is a formidable challenge, but the job of a VMP Coordinator does not end there. The effect that prescribed fire will have on air and water quality, wildlife, and cultural resources must all be determined.

The VMP coordinator on a project must work with agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Game, air quality entities and regional water boards to complete an environmental checklist on the project. The goal is to have "less than significant impact on the local environment," said Tom Larsen.

Once the environmental review is complete, a burn prescription is designed that accounts for all the environmental concerns of the area.

*See, VMP page 29*

### **VMP: from page 28**

Only then is a contract for the burn signed with the landowner who helps pay the cost of the project. Once local communities are notified that a project will take place, burns can be implemented when weather and fuel conditions meet the prescription and crews are available.

Waters emphasized the importance of community support when a burn is planned. "We spent a lot of time informing and educating the Sly Park community about what we were going to be doing and how they would benefit," said Waters. "We had excellent support from this community on this project."

The Sly Park burn is yet to be completed due to a statewide burn ban CDF issued as a result of the extremely dry conditions in California this summer. When finished, the



**Heavy underbrush is burned during the initial phase of this VMP project in the Amador-El Dorado Unit.**

project will serve as a fuel break where dense vegetation and communities are separated.

The VMP has documented many success stories in the last 20 years, and someday, should a fire break out, the Sly Park project may help save lives and property. In its time the VMP has adapted to meet the

changing needs of a growing state, and has sought the help of resource management at the local, state, and federal level in order to be environmentally sensitive. The program has proven its worthiness as a valuable pre-fire tool in the last two decades and will continue to serve California well into the future.

## **A new tool for Project Learning Tree**

**by Laurie Litman, InfoWright**

It's every student's dream assignment: "please put away your books, we're going to play computer games." Now, thanks to the creative use of technology, this is one dream that will come true in many science classes throughout California.

*Burning Issues*, an interactive computer game on CD-ROM, is fun, fascinating, and challenging. It was created to teach students about the important role of fire in natural ecosystems and about fire management practices used to maintain safe and sustainable environments. Many extremely complex issues are covered, including the role of fire in ecosystems, prescribed burns, relationships between fire and invasive weeds, and wildland fire management. Students learn about fire ecology and the issues and concerns that need to be considered

for appropriate fire management in various ecosystems. They also learn that there is no one right answer to these issues but that background knowledge, critical thinking, and problem solving are required in every situation.

The CD-ROM contains a multimedia mix of video, slides, interactive activities, student field notebook, and other features that create an exciting (and educational) game that culminates in an actual fire simulation used for training fire managers. Students are challenged to understand the many concerns and considerations involved in making fire management decisions. *Burning Issues* was developed as a joint project of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Florida State University.

The *Burning Issues* adventure



begins with a trip to the National Interagency Fire Center where students are invited in to the Mission Briefing Room. After the briefing, they go out to an airfield to choose transportation to one of four EcoVentures in various parts of the country. Each EcoVenture covers a different aspect of fire ecology.

- "Fire Power" takes place in a southern pine ecosystem where prescribed burns can help prevent catastrophic wildfires. Students learn about the steps required to safely and effectively prescribe fires including discussions with local people and calculations of various weather parameters. They then set a prescribed fire and analyze the results.

**See, *PLT* page 30**

## **PLT: from page 29**

- The chaparral in Southern California is known as the "I-Zone," where the wildlands and urban areas interface. This area presents unique challenges for fire management. Students learn how to develop buildings and communities that may survive in this fire-adapted ecosystem.

- The ponderosa pine forest ecosystem is the location of "Fire Suppression," an EcoVenture that looks at strategies for suppressing fire. Students learn about the three elements of the fire triangle and about various fire fighting vehicles and tactics. They can then take a plane out to drop slurry on a wildland fire.

- In "Golden Eagle," students become wildlife biologists in the scrub-steppe ecosystem to learn how fire affects the relationships among predators, prey, and invasive plant species. This EcoVenture requires careful data collection and analysis to understand these relationships.

Each EcoVenture gives students

an understanding of a distinct ecosystem using video, hyperlinks, actors, and various background resources. Information is provided on the unique animals and plants in the area. Some of the important fire issues for that ecosystem are discussed. Consultants and scientists are on hand to give additional background on these issues from specific points of view.

In addition, there is a Resource Center associated with each EcoVenture, containing field guides and further information that can be accessed at any time. A 49-page booklet for students provides background and serves as a field notebook to record observations and data from each EcoVenture. Each section ends with questions, activities, and an EcoChallenge. A Teacher's Field Notebook is also available on the CD.

At the end of each EcoVenture, students get a secret symbol. All four secret symbols are needed to qualify to enter Incident Command Center to access "Flames," a simulation program adapted from an actual training program for fire profession-

als. In this EcoVenture, students take on the role of a fire manager and make critical decisions about how to manage the fire and deploy resources.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) has a grant from BLM to train teachers to use the *Burning Issues* curriculum. Workshops will be presented throughout California over the next several months. Participants will receive a free copy of *Burning Issues* and a variety of Project Learning Tree and other educational materials for teaching fire ecology at different grade levels.

CDF has sponsored the California Project Learning Tree program since 1988. PLT is an award-winning, interdisciplinary environmental education program for educators working with students in Pre-K through grade 12. PLT helps students gain awareness and knowledge of the natural and built environment, their place within it, as well as their responsibility for it. For more information, contact Kay Antunez at (916) 653-7958 or [kay\\_antunez@fire.ca.gov](mailto:kay_antunez@fire.ca.gov).

## **Timber harvesting reduces erosion?**

*by Gary Brittner, division chief, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit*

I hope this unusual headline caught your interest and made you think. Quite often we hear about the negative consequences of timber harvesting and forget about the luxury of having wood and paper products. Timber harvesting presents potential impacts on the environment. However, the Forest Practice Act, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Rules, and other agency rules are intended to minimize the environmental impacts from timber harvest. When timber harvesting is well planned by a registered professional forester (RPF), and carried out by conscientious licensed timber operators, good things happen.

This anecdote is about a timber harvesting plan in Placer County near the town of Foresthill. A consulting RPF, Jeff Calvert, was retained to prepare a timber harvesting plan for four landowners on 110 acres of timberland. Three of the parcels have residences. Besides the serene forest surroundings, another amenity on one of the parcels is a ½ acre pond. Over the years, various users of the property drove down to the pond through a field. Gradually, during storms and snowmelt, the road began to erode and modest amounts of sediment flowed into the pond.

During field preparation, RPF Calvert noted this and other erosion

problems and included provisions in the harvesting plan to eliminate them. (Besides his consulting work Jeff served as a Director for the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD).) The pond road is about 200 feet long and is on a 15 percent slope. The licensed timber operator did not use this road during the course of logging the property. But, when he was done logging the area he installed erosion controls. The erosion controls disperse water so it does not run down the road and sediment no longer flows into the pond where lunker trout lurk in the

*See, **EROSION** page 31*



## ***EROSION: from page 30***

shaded water.

There is another road on the property about 500 feet long that was abandoned years ago, but it was not protected from erosion. This road was not used during the logging either, but the harvesting plan required that it be water-barred to divert water from the road and onto the forest floor. The logger fixed this

erosion problem with a few well-placed water bars. Besides these engineering solutions, RPF Calvert distributed the Placer County RCD's booklet "Streamcare: A Guide for Streamside Property Owners" to the landowners.

This is only one of many examples of foresters and loggers restoring the environment during logging operations by fixing old erosion problems. The upshot of this timber harvesting

plan is win, win, win. The landowner gets income, consumers get wood products, and fish get cleaner water. Remember this story next time you read a book, build something with lumber, sit in a wooden chair, or use a paper towel.

***(Editor's Note: RPF Calvert now works for CDF and runs the Forest Stewardship Program)***

# Recreation trail Soquel and public work together

***by Carlos Garcia, student assistant,  
Public Education and Public Affairs Offices***

Sometimes it seems that in order to protect the natural resources and watershed values of our forests, recreation and public land use must be severely limited. But this is not necessarily true. Effective forest management and public recreation can often coexist. In fact, given the opportunity, the public can play a critical role in promoting education and public awareness about forest conservation.

Consider Soquel, the newest of CDF's Demonstration Forests. Located on 2,681 acres of young growth in Santa Cruz County, the forest is situated near population centers such as San Jose and Monterey. One of the objectives of forest management when CDF assumed control of Soquel Forest in 1990, included "studying the benefits and risks of forest operations close to urban areas."

For many in the San Francisco Bay Area, Soquel is a recreation enthusiast's dream. In particular, Soquel has become renowned statewide for its challenging mountain bike trails. Unfortunately, while so many people utilize the recreational

opportunities at Soquel, not everyone understands the importance of protecting the natural resources of the forest.

Last year Soquel management discovered a trail that had been illegally constructed by mountain bikers and that threatened Soquel Creek, home to steelhead trout. As the trail crossed or neared wet, boggy areas of the forest, it endangered the fish by clouding the creek with silt. In addition to being a threat to the fish, the trail was inaccessible to rescue crew vehicles, thus making it very difficult to retrieve a mountain biker in an accident situation. CDF closes illegally constructed trails, and thus management scheduled the unauthorized trail to be destroyed.

The story would have ended there had it not been for the determination of cyclists to keep the trail open and the willingness of forest management to work with the public on the issue. CDF officials knew that recreation activities such as the trail are important to many, and while the trail had been constructed by people who did not understand the biologi-

cal needs of the watershed, the majority of bikers are thoughtful and concerned with protecting and maintaining the natural resources of Soquel. In an effort to maintain a strong relationship with the public, forest officials met with cyclists several times to discuss a plan of action regarding the future of the trail and public recreation in the forest.

After the meetings, CDF management and the mountain bikers found that they were both interested in creating enjoyable and environmentally sensitive recreational opportunities. In the end, Soquel management determined that the trail could re-open if modified to minimize erosion and reduce impact to watercourses. In addition, the trail would have to be accessible to rescue personnel riding all terrain vehicles. The mountain bikers also agreed to work to end illegal trail construction and that no other illegal trails would



***See, SOQUEL page 32***

## **SOQUEL:** from page 31

be allowed.

Working in conjunction with Soquel staff, local cyclists sprang into action and organized money and volunteers to support the work needed on the trail. Recognizing the need to inform the public about proper use and care of the forest, an organization known as the Stewards of Soquel Forest was created to

enhance the public's experience in the forest and foster educational programs. Several workdays took place, and the trail was made safe for both the natural resources and rescue accessibility needs of Soquel management.

Recently, the now legal trail officially opened to the public, and since that time many mountain bikers have experienced the trail first hand. While riding the trail is

exciting, so are the newly forged bonds between the public and forest management. It is now even more clear to both the bikers and the Soquel staff, that their interests are not mutually exclusive. In fact the opposite is true; Communication and cooperation between the public and forest management is not only beneficial but an essential component to effective forest management near urban areas.

# Homeowner responsibility stressed at pre-fire season event

*by Carol Elwell, executive assistant, CDF Headquarters*

Imagine having a fire burn right up to the fence of your child's elementary school! Quick thinking last year by the teachers at the Concow School in Butte County, and a calm evacuation by the students prevented a fire danger from becoming a potential disaster.

With singed fences and burned hillsides still evident, CDF chose this site to kick-off Wildfire Awareness Week 2001. A proclamation signed by Governor Gray Davis designated May 14 – 19, 2001, Wildfire Awareness Week in California as a time to emphasize the need for citizen participation in fire prevention and fire safety.

CDF Director Andrea Tuttle, and CDF Butte Unit Chief Bill Sager both stressed the need for homeowners and communities to take steps to prevent wildfire destruction. Glen Nader, former Butte Fire Safe Council (FSC) chairperson, spoke about the importance of residents getting involved in their local councils and also emphasized the responsibility of citizens to do their part in preventing wildfire destruction. The terrain, dry vegetation and numerous structures interspersed throughout the hills surrounding the school, was the perfect back-drop to emphasize



***CDF Director Andrea Tuttle addresses the crowd of media, CDFers, and members of the public. She stressed the need for homeowners and communities to take steps to prevent wildfire destruction.***



***Fire Captain Darryl Sanford is presented with Firehouse Magazine's Heroism Award for his efforts to save an elderly woman during the Concow Fire. Director Tuttle made the presentation as Butte Unit Chief Bill Sager looks on.***

the challenges firefighters face. And the fact that the Concow Fire claimed one life, and threatened many others, including the children of the Concow School, reinforced the potential for loss.

The Concow Fire started on September 19, 2000 and burned 1835

acres before it was contained on September 22. While 50 structures were saved by firefighters, including the Concow School, the fire destroyed 16 structures, and claimed the life of an elderly woman.

***See, FIRE SEASON page 33***

## ***FIRE SEASON: from page 32***

The large crowd of local residents, school children, and media representatives were impressed when CDF had two of its aircraft fly over – an S-2T airtanker, and a Huey helicopter. CDF engines and a Butte Fire Center crew were also on hand to give the crowd an idea of the department's firefighting capabilities.

Also on hand to show their support for the importance of fire safety education, were Deputy Director of Fire Protection Glen Newman, Assistant Northern

Region Chief Jeff Jones, and Deputy Director of Public Affairs, Public Education and Legislation Louis Blumberg.

Director Tuttle presented a heroism award from the "Firehouse Magazine", a national publication, to CDF Fire Captain Darrell Sanford who risked his life trying to evacuate an elderly resident who had suffered smoke inhalation and burn injuries.

The Director also announced the reinstatement of the "Fire Safe California Award", which was established in 1987 by then CDF Director Jerry Partain, to be pre-

sented to communities taking outstanding fire safety measures. The first award was presented in 1987 to The Yosemite Lakes Homeowners Association in Fresno county. A fire called the Ranger Incident broke out near this residential subdivision. Fortunately, five homeowners of the Yosemite Lakes community that were directly in the path of the fire had cleared defensible space around their properties, enabling CDF to contain the incident before it could destroy any homes in the subdivision.

# Miss Evie

## Four-legged fire prevention

*by Anna Smith, fire prevention specialist II,  
Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit*

The CDF Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit has adopted a fire prevention dog. Miss Evie, a mixed breed that was cast out by a person who felt she was no longer worth keeping, has found her niche in life by showing hundreds of school children how to protect themselves if their clothing catches on fire.

When I came across Miss Evie two years ago in Mariposa County she was afraid of everything. She would not get close to anyone or let anyone get close to her for several months. After feeding her for some time and taming her just a little bit, I was able to finally catch her in a trap. Soon after that Miss Evie showed herself to be a gentle, lovable dog who thoroughly enjoyed human contact.

I already had five dogs of my own – all cast away – so the next step was to find Miss Evie a new home with an owner that would care for and love her. A very nice Mariposa couple, Richard and Francine Gerardi, came along and adopted Miss Evie. They took Miss Evie to

obedience school and she earned the highest certificates available.

We all realized that Miss Evie was a special dog. She lives to play with children, be petted and loved, and wants more than anything to please everyone. We thought it would be wonderful if a dog like her could go into schools and teach children how to "stop, drop, and roll." Well, a few days before last Christmas, Mrs. Gerardi, who is also a CDF VIP, called and said she had a surprise for us at CDF. I went right over to see what the surprise was and when I arrived Miss Evie promptly dropped to the ground and demonstrated how to do "stop, drop, and roll." It was wonderful!!!

By taking Miss Evie into schools and teaching children how to "stop, drop, and roll"; children, who are normally too shy or unwilling to participate, are now eager to get involved.

While doing her part as a new fire prevention tool, Miss Evie



***Above, Miss Evie gets ready to demonstrate stop drop and roll under the guidance of her owner, VIP Francine Gerardi.***

decided doing "stop, drop, and roll" was not enough. She started practicing how to get out of the Practice And Learn prop (PAL), which is used to teach children how to escape a burning bedroom. Miss Evie is a hit in the schools and in the last few months, has taught hundreds of children to "stop, drop, and roll" and how to get out of a burning bedroom.

With her routine down, and a demonstrated love of children, the

***See, MISS EVIE page 34***



## **MISS EVIE:** *from page 33*

next move was to share this new tool with the community via the media. With one press release Miss Evie received front-page coverage in several newspapers and appeared live on a morning television show and several evening news broad-

casts. The combination of a loving and smart dog, along with a Volunteer In Prevention willing to give of her time and energy, has produced an invaluable fire prevention team.

Miss Evie spends most of her time with children in Madera, Mariposa and Merced counties, however, she does go on field trips to other units

and is more than willing to bring her message to children in other areas. If you are interested in finding out more about Miss Evie please contact me, Anna Smith at the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit , 209-966-3622.

# Summer at Camp Smokey

*by Carlos Garcia, student assistant,  
Public Education and Public Affairs Offices*

Every summer brings another fire season, and fire protection personnel from all over the country toil long hours to suppress the flames that ravage our nation. These courageous firefighters are heroes for the lives they save, and more than 50 years ago now, these heroes rescued "Smokey," a bear cub from the Lincoln National Forest of New Mexico.

For the last half century Smokey Bear has been a symbol to America representing fire prevention efforts. While heroic CDF firefighters battle blazes in the summer, other CDF personnel, equally heroic, educate the public about fire safety. These heroes can be found working hot days at "Camp Smokey," the inter-agency prevention exhibit at the California State Fair.

Participating in the fair is a difficult proposition for the agencies involved because it takes place at the height of fire season. Every year staff volunteers are reassigned to fire duty at the last minute, and this makes scheduling for the fair a formidable challenge. Yet, CDF, the US Forest Service and local fire departments know there is something incredibly fitting about having a fire prevention display during the hottest, driest time of the year, for it is then that Smokey's prevention message is most critical. It is then that carelessness or lack of basic fire safety knowledge can cause cata-

strophic damage to both lives and property.

This year, just as in years past, more than 15,000 children visited the multi agency display. There is no way to tell exactly how many fires are prevented each year as a result of Camp Smokey, or how many families are more prepared for an emergency. However, it is clear based on the enthusiasm of fairgoers that the display plays an important educational role. "Many kids do not get a basic fire safety education anywhere else, so it is important that we're able to meet with them during the fair," said deputy incident commander Jean LaClair. "Every year so many parents thank us for what we are doing out here," said Jean.

The fair runs from the middle of August until Labor Day, and includes many activities designed to teach fire safety to children. Whether helping kids identify fire hazards, or teaching them what to do if they see a fire, Camp Smokey has something for everyone. Parents can often be seen browsing the new display on sudden oak death while their children tour through other activities.

While the fair lasts only 18 days, the CDF Public Education office must begin planning months prior. Volunteers are scheduled, hotel reservations are made, and displays are built long before the clicking of



***Smokey continues to be a hit with younger kids.***

the turnstiles welcomes fairgoers.

CDFers from all over the state are involved in Camp Smokey both before and during the fair. People like Jerry Letsinger and Romy Perea from the Administrative Mapping and Graphics Program at Deuel Vocational Institute, create and print the "passports" that children use as they navigate through the display.

Among the other CDFers that must be thanked for their help are the Fire Prevention Specialists (FPS's) and the Volunteers In Prevention (VIP's) who every year come from all over the state to Sacramento to help out. "We couldn't do the display without their help," said Jean LaClair, "they've been instrumental in our success since we created Camp Smokey three years ago."

Another group that deserves thanks are the volunteers from Sacramento. Every year CDF Headquarters staff is asked to fill over 70

*See, **SMOKEY** page 35*

## ***SMOKEY: from page 34***

volunteer shifts at the fair. No overtime is paid to them. Said Jean LaClair, "This was our best year so far. We received volunteers from the Academy, FRAP and Office of the State Fire Marshal for the first time." Added Jean, "We hope to include even more first time volunteers next year."

While the main goal of Camp Smokey is to teach fire safety, the

display also is beneficial in helping CDF employees understand the important mission of the department. "This is one of the few ways that some CDFers get to work with the public," said Jean. "We have volunteers from our accounting office, for example, who love working the fair because it provides them an opportunity to see a part of the department that they don't often experience."

Just as next summer means

another fire season, so does it mean another Camp Smokey. While crews will be found battling day and night to put out fires like the one that destroyed Smokey's home, VIPs, FPS's, and other CDF volunteers will found battling to spread a message of fire safety to the public at Camp Smokey. Summer is a time for heroes; both those that put out fires and those that prevent them.

# Fire training in Monterey

*by Cheryl Goetz, fire prevention specialist, San Benito-Monterey Unit*

The Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association (MCFTOA) hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wildland Fire Training School on June 7-10 at Fort Hunter Liggett. By virtue of its name, the school has been developed to provide firefighters with invaluable live fire training and chief officers with large-scale incident management skills.

The Wildland Fire School was started in June of 1979 to prepare local agencies for the upcoming fire season. Training consisted of off-road driving, winch operation and safety, proper use of hand tools, and fire nozzle operation. It was a two-day class and 58 people, not counting instructors, participated. No live fire training was conducted the first year.

The school has grown continually since 1979. Today the school hosts 75 engines, an incident management team, seven branches and 415 personnel. Over 1,000 acres of land situated on the Fort Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, 30 minutes west of King City, California, serve as the backdrop for four days of live fire training.

The school has been set up to realistically mock a major wildland fire. Monterey county fire chief officers serve as command, general staff and branch instructors. En-

gines arriving on the first day, report to staging for branch assignment, and an incident base is established.

Instruction at the then begins on the first day with firing techniques. A 30-foot safety zone is established around the 1,000-acre perimeter of the school. Water points are established, and drafting and pump use is taught.

Day two focuses on the basic skills of fire fighting. Fire ground safety, line construction, communications, tactics and strategy for mobile attack, and hoselays are the highlights of the day. Also included is safety for working around and with bulldozers as well as basic helicopter safety and a water dropping demonstration. Live fire training then begins.

Day three builds on the basics and adds progressive hoselays. One-on-one training is given to the engine company officers on resource placement while the crew is taught nozzle control, application, water conservation, and the proper use of foam. Mop-up techniques are begun. These fires are bigger and require strategy to put them out.

Day four focuses on multiple



***That's CDF Director Andrea Tuttle handling the hose when she visited on day three of the training.***

engines on single fires. Engines are dispatched from their staging areas to a reported vegetation fire. A report on conditions is required over the air, and ICS is stressed.

A "Media Safety Day" is also organized and representatives from the media are taught basic fire behavior, and fire weather. Fire shelter deployment is demonstrated and practiced, and the use of safety on incidents is stressed. The media is then assigned to a branch and afforded the opportunity (in full safety gear) to fight fire and experience a day in the life of a firefighter first hand.

***See, TRAINING page 36***

## **TRAINING:** from page 35

The true meaning of multi-agency cooperation is witnessed at this school. The CDF San Benito-Monterey Unit supplies a water dropping helicopter for air support, a Type 2 communications unit for incident communications and two bulldozers for road improvement and line construction. Also supplied is the mobile kitchen unit (MKU), which serves a hot breakfast, sack lunches and a hot dinner.

The California Office of Emergency Services (OES) uses the fire school as a training opportunity to set up the Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS) for incident base telephones, as well as supplying two portable radio caches. Monterey County OES assists in communications with their mobile emergency communications unit (MECU). North Tree Fire donates the services of their water tender for dust control and water points and

also donates their camp clerical unit. Numerous other vendors supply showers, potable water, refrigeration, trash service, portable bathrooms, fuel, handwashing stations, foam and food.

The Wildland Fire School is the only school of it's kind in the Western United States. Fire departments throughout California, as well as other western states send representatives to participate and bring back information for starting their own school. "This school is a necessary and realistic tool to prepare new

firefighters and hone the skills of firefighting veterans. We are proud to sponsor this training in Monterey County and to be a part of progress five service training" said Incident Commander Greg Glass, Monterey City Fire Department.

For more information on the Wildland Fire School you can visit the Monterey County Fire Training Officers web site at: [www.MCFTOA.org](http://www.MCFTOA.org) or contact the school at (831) 333-2600.



***Training included the use of handtools on the fireline, and some very impressive live fire considering it was only June.***

# **Training for new firefighters**

In June the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit held live fire training for new firefighter I's. Nearly 40 firefighters from Placer County Fire and CDF attended the training to learn about fire fighting strategy including hoselays, nozzle control, application of water and foam, and mopping up.

The temperature was in the high 90's and the grass was extremely dry so students got a realistic picture of what they would face during fire season.

***Mobile attack training allowed two engines and student crews to attack opposite ends of the fires that were lit throughout the day. Each student learned proper hose use and water application. Photos by Rosanne Taylor, VIP, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit.***



***Pitching in with "other duties" was also covered.***





# HazMat Training

## 2001 Continuing Challenge

by Andrea Clayton, receptionist, Public Affairs

The 12th Annual Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Workshop took place once again in Sacramento, September 4 to 7, 2001.

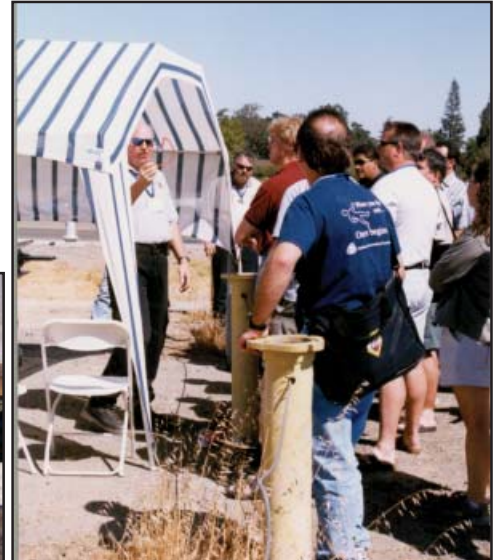
This yearly workshop draws over 900 emergency responders from all over the nation, Canada, and the Pacific Rim. They come to learn about and prepare for emergency response to hazardous incidents.

Over 112 training courses were given covering such topics as terrorism, contamination, confined space rescue, and identification of hazardous materials and devices. Each year the workshop also includes the "Hazmat Olympics", "Name That Unknown Chemical" contest, and a number of keynote speakers.

Emergency personnel can mark their calendars now for the 13th Annual Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Workshop to be held in Sacramento, September 3 to 6, 2002.



*A large display of hazardous devices included pipe bombs, grenades, C-4 explosives, dynamite wire and other agents used in bomb composition.*



*Joe Konefal, senior investigator, CDF/OSFM Arson and Bomb Unit, discusses explosive devices during the Hazardous Devices and Explosives class.*

## BFC grads in Siskiyou



The CDF Siskiyou Unit, in cooperation with the College of the Siskiyous, hosted Basic Fire Control 2A-250 class from May 21 through June 8, 2001. The class graduated 33 new limited term fire apparatus engineers to work throughout the Northern Region.

The top three graduates from Basic Fire Control 2A-250 class are from L to R: Matt Thau who finished second; Scott Gosselin who finished first; and Chris Richens and Nick Ciardella who tied for third.

## Don "Ike" Eichman is retiring

Come celebrate with Don

Saturday, November 3, 2001

St. Sava Mission  
in Jackson, CA  
Social Hour 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.  
Presentations: 7:30 p.m.

For more information contact  
Nancy Martinelli at the  
CDF Academy  
209-274-5535

# Dan Dineen

## CDF "Yankee" initiative

Who would you call if your water line at home broke and you needed to get it working quickly? The plumber, right? Ok, so who would you call when the main retardant line breaks at your local air attack base, as it did recently at Columbia Air Attack Base in the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit? In this case it may be Dan Dineen, fire captain at Station 51. To explain, I need to give you a little history.

Dan grew up in Tuolumne County in the small community of Columbia in the late 60's and early 70's. As a kid, he was attracted to airplanes and being that he lived under the departure path of the Columbia Airport he watched CDF tankers coming and going a lot in the summer. He also spent a lot of his time at the tanker base, as TBM's, F7F's, and PBY's flew fires out of Columbia. As a result of these experiences, he developed a strong attachment to those historic airtankers and CDF's air program in general.

In 1999, still fostering a strong attachment to the air program, Dan was able to come to Columbia on a training and development assignment, working the season as the assistant tanker base manager opposite permanent base manager, Frank Garcia. During that summer he and Frank collaborated to develop a temporary plumbing system that could be put in place, not if, but when the existing aging plumbing failed. Portions of the base plumbing have been in the ground since the TBM's and F7F's were flying out of Columbia. With Dan's extensive knowledge of large diameter water supply systems, and Frank's knowledge of the Columbia retardant supply system, they developed a concept of using excess 4" water supply hose to deliver retardant to

the pads in the event of a pipe failure.

Now we come to the present. It's the middle of July and fire season has been in full swing since May. Columbia Air Attack Base is working the Briceburg Incident, 10 miles west of Yosemite, in Mariposa County. Five of the assigned airtankers are reloading at Columbia. All three reload pads are being used to load tankers. Dan is having lunch with his wife Cherie who is a firefighter/loader at the base. The retardant delivery system has been working well up to this point, when the inevitable occurs. The main retardant line breaks, putting the base out of service. Frank Garcia is headed off to the incident in the air attack ship, but before he goes, he and Dan confer, and Dan indicates that he could put their plan in effect. Frank tells Dan to go ahead.

Dan immediately went to work, locating approximately 600' of surplus supply hose and fittings. In about two hours he had bypassed the existing system and had pads #2 and #3 up and operating at full capacity. The next day he came back and finished the job on pad 1. In the past, when the line broke, the base was out of service for 24 to 48 hours before repairs could be made. Having a base out of service that long will have very serious implications to the firefighters on the incident. Fortunately CDF has people like Dan who are thinking and who are not afraid to act.

This is the kind of initiative that has made CDF such a great organization. Thanks Dan, for a great job!



*Cub Scout Dan Dineen, second from the left, checking out a TBM tanker on a tour of Columbia about 1969.*

## Personnel Transactions and Kudos

The CDF Personnel Transactions and Kudos are posted separately on the CDF web site and on the CDF Intranet.

Personnel Transactions cover all appointments, promotions, separations, retirements, transfers, and deaths reported to the CDF Communique' staff.

Kudos include recognition by the public, private industry, cooperating agencies, and CDF executive staff given to CDFers for outstanding efforts and the professional manner in which CDF personnel always carry out the mission of this department.

Find both sections under the CDF Newsletter option on the main page of the CDF website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

## CDF Office of Protocol International visitors

CDF hosts numerous foreign delegations interested in the programs, operations and activities of CDF both in the forest and fire protection arenas. Under the direction of CDF Deputy Director Louis Blumberg, and Jennifer Stanley, Chief of Legislation, the Office of Protocol acts as an emissary and coordinates protocol for CDF. The Office of Protocol works with CDF programs and units to make sure that the desires of all visitors are fully met.

Visitors from around the world come to learn of California's vast natural resources, forest manage-

ment practices, model fire protection services and CDF's cooperative partnerships with local and federal government fire districts.

CDF has hosted at least 12 different foreign delegations since October 2000. Early this year, CDF staff met with the Minister of Defense and three military pilots from Bulgaria to provide information on the CDF Aviation Unit's structure and firefighting methods and equipment. Also, a delegation from Korea representing numerous scientists and government officials visited CDF and toured the CDF Academy in Ione, and were briefed on the

different state and local government cooperative fire protection agreements.

The CDF Office of Protocol has also developed a partnership with the California National Guard to enter into an exchange program with the Ukrainian government in 2001/2002. This program focuses on CDF's air attack procedures in fighting wildland fires and the air tanker and helicopter equipment utilized by CDF.

All contacts received from any foreign/international representative of meetings, visits, or tours with CDF or the Office of the State Fire Marshal should be directed to Steve McLean or Kathleen Jensen in the Office of Legislation and Protocol at (916) 653-5333.

### California Legislature Assembly Resolution *Firefighters*

**Whereas,** The men and women who devote their time and energy to the duties of fire prevention and suppression have assumed responsibilities essential for the safety of their fellow citizens; and

**Whereas,** California has faced burning conditions and an earlier fire season this summer than is typical for this time of year; and

**Whereas,** Northern California has incurred a 68 percent increase in the number of wildfire starts and a 429 percent increase in acres burned compared to the five-year average; and

**Whereas,** There are at least nine active, large fires and Complexes currently burning; and

**Whereas,** Nearly 90,000 acres have been burned this summer; and

**Whereas,** These fires have destroyed over 70 buildings and caused several injuries, including the deaths of two pilots Lars Stratte, 45 of Redding and Larry Groff, 55, of Windsor whose air tankers collided and crashed in wooded hills near Hopland, about 100 miles north of San Francisco; and

**Whereas,** more than 8,000 firefighters have committed themselves to stamping out these fires, employing 250 fire crews using 733 fire engines, 94 bulldozers, 50 helicopters, 71 water tenders, and 1,001 overhead; and

**Whereas,** This massive effort has prevented fires from wrecking more havoc; and

**Whereas,** The people of Northern California are fortunate to be served by public employees of the caliber of these firefighters, who display a special care and concern for the safety and well-being of the community, and who possess the competence, drive and determination to succeed in their efforts; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by Assembly Members Tim Leslie, Sam Aanestad, Dave Cogdill, Dick Dickerson and Virginia R. Strom-Martin and Senators Wesley Chesbro, Maurice Johannessen and Thomas "Rico Oller, That the people of Northern California extend their sincere and deepest appreciation to the hardworking firefighters who have worked so heroically to vanquish the flames that have caused such horrific destruction.**

**Members Resolution No. 2544**

**Dated this 7th day of September, 2001**



## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Communique'

P.O. Box 944246, Room 1506-17  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460



Bulk Rate Mail  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #3316  
Sacramento, CA



***Patriotism was the order of the day at the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Headquarters following the September 11 terrorist attacks.***

## COMMUNIQUE'

**Gray Davis**

*Governor  
State of California*

**Mary D. Nichols**

*Resources Secretary  
The Resources Agency*

**Andrea E. Tuttle**

*Director  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection*

**Lisa Boyd**

*Editor  
CDF Public Education Office*

**Carol Elwell**

**Candace Kraemer**  
*Proofreading*

**Carlos Garcia**

*Writing/Proofreading*

The Communique' is published by the  
CDF Public Education Office.  
Articles and photos from the field  
and retired CDFers are always welcome.  
(916) 653-5123.  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

